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REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS.

OLD VIRGINNY.

The Historie of Travall into Virginia Britannia, &c., gathered and observed as well by those who went first thither, as collected by W. Strachey, Gent., the first Secretary to the Colony. Edited by R. H. Major, for the Hakluyt Society.

This is one of the most interesting revivals we have seen. We will not, however, trouble our readers with early voyages, settlements, charters, and misfortunes, suffice it to say that, after Raleigh abandoned his attempts, two expeditions were concocted and sent out in the time of James I., (who himself wrote sealed instructions for their conduct on taking possession of the land), and the voyagers reached Virginia to colonize it. Their leaders had many disputes, but Captain Smith, at last, rallied the settlers, and during the first years we have the following accounts of the natives:—

"It is strange to see with what great feare and adoration all this people doe obey this Powhatan,* for at his feete they present whatsoever he commaundeth, and at the least frowne of his brow the greatest will tremble, yt may be, because he is very terrible, and inexorable in punishing such as offend him; for example, he caused certaine malefactors, at what tyme Captain Smith was prisoner with him, (and to the sight whereof Captain Smith, for some purpose, was brought,) to be bound hand and foote, when certaine officers appointed thereunto, having from many fiers gathered great store of burning coales, raked the coales rounde in forme of a cock-pitt, and in the midst they cast the offenders to broyle to death. Some tymes he causeth the headds of them that offend to be layed upon the aulter or sacrificing stone, and one or two, with clubbes, beat out their braynes. When he would punish any notorious enemye or trespasser, he causeth him to be tyed to a tree, and with muscke shells or reedes the executioner cutteth off his joints one after another, ever casting what is cutt off into the fier; then doth he procede with shelles and reedes to ease the skyn from his head and face; after which they rip up his belly, teare out his bowells, and so burne him with the tree and all. Thus themselves reported, that they executed an Englishman, one George Cawson, whom the women enticed up from the barge into their howses, at a place called Appocant. Howbeit, his ordinary correction is to have an offender, whome he will only punish and not put to death, to be beaten with cudgells as the Turks doe. We have seene a man kneeling on his knees, and, at Powhatan's commaund two men have beaten him on the bare skyn till the skyn have ben all bollen and blistered, and all on a goare blood, and till he hath fallen senseless in a swoond, and yet never cryed, complayned, nor seemed to ask pardon, for that they seldom doe."

"The men shave their haire on the right side very close, keeping a ridge commonly on the toppe or crowne like a cocombe; for their women, with two shells, will grate away the haire into any fashion they please. On the left side they weare theire haire at full length, with a lock of an ell long, which they annoint often with walnut oyle, whereby it is very sleeke, and shynes like a raven's winge. Sometyms they tie up their

look with an artefeyall and well-laboured knott (just in the same fashion as I have seene the Carrazais of Scio and Pera), stuck with many coloured gew-gawes, as the cast-head or brow-antle of a deare, the hand of their enemy dried, croissets of bright and shyning copper, like the newe moone. Many weare the whole skin of a hauke stuffed, with the wings abroad, and buzzards' or other fowles' whole wings, and to the feathers they will fasten a little rattle, about the bigness of the chape of a rapier, which they take from the tayle of a snake, and sometyms divers kinds of shells, hanging loose by small purfleets or threeds, that, being shaken as they move, they might make a certaine murmuring or whisteling noise by gathering wynd, in which they seem to take great jollity, and hold yt a kind of bravery.

"Their eares they boare with wyde holes, commonly two or three, and in the same they doe hang chaines of stayned pearle braceletts, of white bone or shreds of copper, beaten thinne and bright, and wound up hollowe, and with a greates pride, certaine fowles' legges, eagles, hawkes, turkeys, etc., with beasts' claws, beares, arrahacounes, squirrells, etc. The claws thrust through they let hang upon the cheek to the full view, and some of their men there be who will weare in these holes a small greene and yellow-coloured live snake, neere half a yard in length, which, crawling and lapping himself about his neck oftentymes familiarly, he suffereh to kisse his lippes. Others weare a dead ratt tyed by the tayle, and such like conundrums."

So much for the ruler and his subjects: now for their customs and religious observances:—

"Rownd about the house on both sides are their bedstedes, which are thick short posts stalkt into the ground, a foot high and somewhat more, and for the sides small poles layed along, with a hurdle of reeds cast over, wherein they rowle downe a fyne white matie or twoo (as for a bedd) when they goe to sleepe, and the which they rowle up againe in the morning when they rise, as we doe our palletts, and upon these, rownd about the howse, they lye, heads and points, one by the other, especially making a fier before them in the midst of the howse, as they doe usually every night, and some of them by agreement maynteynes the fier for all that night long; some of them, when they lye downe to sleepe, cover them with matts, some with skinns, and some lye stark naked on the ground, from six to twenty in a house, as doe the Irish."

No compliment to the inhabitants of our sister Isle 240 years ago. Surely they are somewhat improved now! but to return to the Virginians:—

"The void tyme betwene their sleepe and meate they commonly bestow in revelling, dauncing and singing, and in their kind of musique, and have sundry instruments for the same. They have a kind of cane on which they pipe as on a recorder, and are like the Greeke pipes, which they called *bombyces*, being hardly to be sounded without great straying of the breath, upon which they observe certain rude times; but their chief instruments are rattles made of small gourdes or pompon shells; of these they have base, tenor, counter tenor, meane, and treble; these myngled with their voices, sometyms twenty or thirty together, make such a terrible howling as would rather affright than give pleasure to any man.

"They have likewise their *errotica carmina*, or

amorous dittyes in their language, some numerous, and some not, which they will sing tunable enough. They have contrived a kind of angry song against us, in their homely rymes, which concludeth with a kind of petition unto their okeus,* and to all the host of their idolls, to plague the Tassantasses (for so they call us) and their posterities; as likewise another scornful song which they made use of the last yeare at the falls, in manner of triumph, at what tyme they killed Capt. William West, our Lord Generall's nephew, and two or three more, and took one Symon Skove, a saylor, and one Cob, a boy, prisoners. That song goeth thus:—

"1. Matancrew shashashewaw erawango pechecoma
Whe Tassantassa inoshashaw ychocan pocossak.
Whe whe, yah hah nehe wittowa, wittowa.

"2. Matancrew shashashewaw erawango pechecoma
Capt. Newport inoshashaw neir inhoc natian matassan
Whe whe, etc.

"3. Matancrew shashashewaw erawango pechecoma
Thom. Newport inoshashaw neir inhoc natian moncock
Whe whe, etc.

"4. Matancrew shashashewaw erawango pechecoma
Pochin Simon moshashaw nington natian monashack,
Whe whe, etc.

Which maye signifie how they killed us for all our pocossacks, that is our guns, and for all that Captain Newport brought them copper and could hurt Thomas Newport (a boy whose name in deede was Thomas Savadge, who Captain Newport leaving with Powhatan to learne the language, at what tyme he presented the said Powhatan with a copper crowne, and other gifts from his Majestie, said he was his sonne) for all his monachok, that is his bright sword, and how they could take Symon (for they seldom said our surname) prisoner, for all his tamahanke, that is, his hatchet, adding, as for a burden unto their song, what lamentation our people made when they killed him, namely, saying how they would cry whe whe, whe, etc., which they mockt us for, and cried againe to us, yah, ha, ha, Tewittawa, Tewittawa; for it is true they never bemoane themselves nor cry out, giving up so much as a groane for any death, how cruell soever and full of torment."

"They have also divers conjurations: one they made at what tyme they had taken Captain Smith prisoner, to know, as they reported, if any more of his countrymen would arrive there, and what they intended; the manner of yt Captain Smith observed to be as followeth: first, see some as daie was shut in, they kindled a faire great fier in a lone howse, about which assembled seven priests, takinge Captain Smith by the hand, and appointing him his seat; about the fier they made a kynd of enchanted circle of meale; that done the chiefeest priest, attyed as is expressed, gravely began to sing and shake his rattle, solemnly rownding and marching about the fier, the rest followed him silently until his song was done, which they all shutt up with a groane. At the end of the first song the chief priest layd downe certaine graines of wheat, and so continued howling and invoking their okeus to stand firme and powerful to them in divers varieties of songs, still counting the songs by the graynes, until they had circled the fier three tymes, then they divided the graynes by certaine number, with little sticks, all the while muttering some ympious thing unto

* "Their Indian name for their gods."

* The Indian Chief whose daughter Pacahontas saved Captain Smith's life, and whose glory yet lives in memory as a true and painful romance.—Ed. L. G.

themselves, oftentimes looking upon Captain Smith. In this manner they continued ten or twelve hours without any other ceremonies or intermission, with such violent stretching of their arms, and various passions, gestures, and symptoms, as might well seem strange to him before whom they so conjured, and who every hour expected to be the host and one of their sacrifice. Not any meat did they eat until it was very late, and the night far spent. About the rising of the morning stars they seemed to have finished their work of darkness, and then drew forth such provision as was in the said house, and feasted themselves and him with much mirth. Three or four days they continued these elvish ceremonies. Now besides this manner of conjurations thus within doors (as we read the augurers, in the old times of the like superstition, did ascend or go up into the certain towers or high places, called therefore *auguracula*, to divine of matters), so do they go forth, and either upon some rock, standing alone, or upon some desolate promontory top, or ells into the midst of thick and solitary woodes they call upon their okeus, and importune their other quoughcooughes with most impetuous and interminate clamours and howling, and with such paynes and strayed accions, as the neighbour places echoe again of the same, and themselves are all in a sweat and over wearied.

"They have also certaine altar stones which they call pawcorances; but those stand from their temples, some by their howses, others in the woodes and wilderness; upon these they offer blood, deare suet, and tobacco, and that when they returne safe from the wars, luckily from hunting, and upon many other occasions.

"We understand they give great reverence to the sun; for which, both at his early rising and late sitting, they couche themselves downe, and lift up their hands and eyes, and at certayne tymes make a round circle on the ground with tobacco, into which they reverently enter, and murmur certayne unhallowed wordes with many a deformed gesture.

"They have also another kind of sorcery which they use in stormes, a kynd of botanomania with herbes: when the waters are rough in the rivers and sea-coasts, their conjurers run to the waters sides, or, passing in their quintans, after many hellish outcries and invocations, they cast whesican, tobacco, copper, peones, or such trash, into the water, to pacifye that god whome they think to be very angry in those stormes.

"Before their dinners and suppers (as Heliodorus remembers the Egyptians were wont to doe when they sate to meate, or at candlelight) the better sort will doe a kynd of sacrifice, taking the first bitt and castinge yt into the fire, and to yt repeat certayne wordes. I have heard Machumps, at Sir Thomas Dale's table, once or twice (upon our request) repeat the said grace as yt were, howbeit I forgot to take yt from him in writinge.

"In some part of the country they have yerely a sacrifice of children; such a one was at Quiyongheohanock, some ten miles from James Towne, as also at Kecoughtan, which Capt. George Percy was at, and observed. The manner of it was, fifteene of the properest yonge boyes, betwene ten and fifteen yeares of age, they paynted white; having brought them forth, the people spent the forenone in dauncing and singing about them with rattles. In the afternoon they solemnly led those childrene to a certayne tree appointed for the same purpose; at the roote whereof, round about, they made the childrene to sitt downe, and by them stood the most and ablest of the men, and some of them the fathers of the childrene, as a watchful guard, every one having a bastinado in his hand of reedes, and these opened a lane betweene all along, through which were appointed five young men to fetch those childrene; and accordingly every one of the five tooke his turne and passed through the guard to fetch a child, the guard fiercely beating them

the while with their bastinados, and showing much anger and displeasure to have the childrene so ravished from them; all which the young men pacyently endured, receaving the blowes and defending the children with their naked bodies from the unmercifull strokes, that paid them soundly, though the children escaped. All the while sate the mothers and kinswomen afar off, looking on, weeping and crying out very passionately, and some, in pretty waymenting tunes, singing (as yt were) their dirge or funeral song, provided with matts, skynnes, mosse, and dry wood by them, as things fitting their children's funeralles. After the childrene were thus forcibly taken from the guard, the guard possessed (as it were) with a vylent fury, entred upon the tree and tore yt down, bowes and branches, with such a terrible fierceness and strength, that they rent the very body of yt, and shivered yt in a hundred peeces, whereof some of them made them garlandes for their heads, and some stuck of the branches and leaves in their haire, wreathing them in the same, and so went up and downe as mourners, with heavy and sad downecast lookes. What ells was done with the childrene might not be seene by our people, further than that they were all cast on a heape in a valleye, where was made a great and rolemne feast for all the company; at the going whereunto, the night now approaching, the Indians desired our people that they would withdraw themselves and leave them to their further proceedings, the which they did: only some of the weroances being demanded the meaning of this sacrifice, made answeare, that the childrene did not all of them suffer death, but that the okeus did suck the blood from the left breast of the child whose chaunce it was to be his by lott, till he were dead, and the remaine were kept in the wilderness by the said young men till nine moones were expired, during which tyme they must not converse with any; and of these were made the priests and conjurers, to be instructed by tradition from the elder priests. These sacrifices, or catharmata, they hold to be so necessary, that if they should omitt them they suppose this okeous, and all the quoughcooughes, which are their other gods, would let them no deare, turkies, corne, nor fish, and yet besides he would make a great slaughter among them: insomuch that if ever the ayncent superstitious tymes feared the devill's *pustularia fulgura*, lightnings that signified religion of sacrifices and vowes to be neglected, these people are dreadfully afflicted with the terror of the like, insomuch as, I may truly saye therefore, the like thunder and lightning is seldome againe eyther seene or heard in Europe as is here.

We deem these selected particulars very curious and to require no comment. The late American History reviewed three weeks ago took very summary notice of the Early Settlements and Aborigines.

GRESSET IN ENGLISH.

Vert-Vert, from the French of Gresset. By Robert Snow, Esq. Pickering.

ONE of the publisher's small volumes, but not of small merits. It is a lively translation, in smooth and musical verse, of Gresset's pleasant story of the "Well-taught Parrot of the Nunnery of Nevers," which unfortunately lost its sense of propriety on a voyage to Nantes, and returned (save the mark!) little better than a reprobate bird. Our readers are well aware that the humour of our Gallic neighbours generally differs from ours (we speak of popular and successful writers), in a certain finesse and neatness of turn. The wit is rather indicated than elaborated; the drollery rather allusive than broad; the piquancy rather sharply pointed than perseveringly cutting; and, in short, the whole calculated to provoke a smile rather than raise a laugh. It is difficult to preserve this distinction in translating from the

French; but Mr. Snow has rendered the traits, even of the slight-touching Gresset, with great ease and fidelity. One or two rhyming licenses may therefore be excused; and also some half dozen of expletives, which, in so short and otherwise perfect a piece, might have been polished off. But, having thus exemplified our critical acumen, we shall now copy a few brief passages, to show how equally the author has performed his task. The opening displays at once his talent for versification.

"I have read, in some grey-bearded author of science,
Much travel proves often a dangerous thing;
In the roof under which you were born, put reliance;
Fickle change is of mischief the prodigal spring.
Better keep side by side with the stay-at-home Lares,
Ay, better by far never stir out of doors,
Than cripple your virtue by foreign vagaries;
For you *must*, or will do so, on barbarous shores.
The above is my Theme. And my Muse's endeavours
A Hero's adventures, in point, would rehearse;
And the gossiping parlous monastic of Nevers
Will attest, if you doubt, the whole truth of my verse.
So take, instead of moral Essay,
Vert-vert, from the French of Gresset;
Whose Muse, abhorring tiresome cantos,
Tripped in galliards and corantos."

The hero parrot is then described with most ornithological panegyric, and his beauty shown to be equal to the religious qualities for which he is indebted to the nuns of Nevers, in whose nunnery he is lodged and whose pet he is.

"In such a school as this at Nevers
Vert-vert grew perfect in his clavers:
And quite regularly spoke,
As though in proverb, from a book.
Save at his meals, he never stinted;
But the seclusion of his college
Forbidden the *pot pourri* of knowledge,
And turn of phrase by wordlings minted.
He was a complete Devotee:—
Quotations now he made; anon
Fell to a chant, or Christmas hymn;
Or with an air demure and prim,
Chastely soliloquizing, shone.
He knew his *Benedicite*;
Struck up, on Fast-days, *De Profundis*;
And *Jubilate* sang on Sundays;
Nay, at the sight of holy water,
Gremus cried, and *Alma Mater*!
Such gear how could he but be pat in
Among so many pious women?
Who, at sundry feasts of Latin,
Gathered every scrap and trimming
Into their own alms-basket of expression,
And fed their Pupil thence, with scant discretion."

His fame is spread far and wide, and at last reaches the sisterhood at Nantes, the parent sheepfold of the Nevers nunnery; and their curiosity is so excited that they write to the younger branch to favour them with a visit from the wonderful Poll. After much hesitation and regret the request is acceded to, and the favourite embarked on the "Loire" for his destination.

"The Convent turned a house of mourning:
Sad dreams all night declared their power,
And swelled with many a pregnant warning
The pity of the parting hour.
But who the weeping Sisters could condemn?
That parting hour was widowhood to them.
'Go, darling! happy may thy voyage prove!
Pass for the foremost in the train of love.'
'Twas thus a pallid sentimental Nuu
With tears her farewell tribute had begun,
When rude authority steps in, and severs
Vert-vert abruptly from his friends at Nevers!
'Is done: the Favourite is slung on board;
'The cars, held up in readiness, are lowered;
He's fairly off; for him 'tis vain to yearn;
The stream is with him, and the wind astern.

That boatman's most commodious boat
Passengers held not a few;
And with Vert-vert went aloft
Who d'ye think, besides the crew?
Of young and old, perhaps a score;
And of that number, less or more,
A specimen I'll render you.
Three dragons, and Gascons two;
Two of the class of single ladies
With Adam's sons at large whose trade is;
A wet-nurse, sloven in attire.
Unwedded, and of ways unseemly;
A mouldy kind of maundersing friar,
Drunken, or belied extremely:—

* "Eawrap us," "flappers," page 14, and "talenti," "balance," are the only flagrant instances; and the two or three "dids," it is indeed hypercritical to notice.—See p. 34.

Of whose sweet converse, not a word
Was comprehended by the Bird.
Worship was their whole display
Of beer-shop, or *estaminet*.
They gave him not the smallest hint
Of having read their Septuagint.
No single phrase they did promulgate
Corresponded with the Vulgate.
To wit, the gallant military
Seem resolved the strength to vary
Of their pottle-draw potations,
With a rich vocabulary
Of spontaneous adjurations:

The Gascons, and the abigails,
Threshed with their tongues, like barn-door flails;
The friar's discourse grew thick and tangled;
On t'other side, the boatmen wrangled:
Above them all, the master thundered:—
Bewildered Vert-vert heard, and wondered!
Him, howbeit confused and harassed,
His own forest silence most embarrassed;
For to continue sad and dumb
In travelling, is most wearisome.

Anon, one of the company,
To rouse him from his reverie,
Cries, "Polly! pretty Polly, talk!—
Pretty Polly, what's o'clock?"
Vert-vert, looking wondrous wise,
Draws up with air aristocratic;
Simpers, whimpers, blinks his eyes;
Then, more like simpleton than knave, he
In tone benignant, yet emphatic,
Makes for answer, "Sister, Ave!"

"*Sacre!*" whom have we here before us?
They all burst out, and laughed in chorus!
And who but Vert-vert was confounded,
Thus by reprobates surrounded?
Here was no breath a flame to raise
To fire the incense of his praise.
Thought he 'what can be my mistake?
Sorely, I am not well awake!"

Then all their speech he pondered o'er,
Like rich unfathomable lore,
And held his peace, yet thought the more.
Nay, he grievously suspected,
Drawing conclusions worse than foolish,
His early teachers had neglected
Of language the finesse and polish,
So mellancholously rounded
These comrades' enthusiasm sounded,
Lulling, syren-like, to rest.
The natural 'larum of his breast,
Thus, in the moment he should not,
His early lessons he forgot,
Then, when his indignation warmed,
And vanity became alarmed,
And base ingratitude brake in
To pave the way to further sin,
He gave the ancient saw the lie,
Crime is accomplished gradually.

In villany, a single dip
Gained him his rake's professorship,
As Vulcan, from Olympus, fell
Down, in a single day, to hell.
From holy rhapsodies an alien,
He clung to catches bacchanalian.
Of that lewd blaspheming crowd,
None more than he profanely loud;
Of immorality an abuser,

A very heretic, and scornful,
All boundaries he overthrew:
New terms of slang by heart he got 'em;
And learnt, what's worse, to swear and curse,
Like a veteran devil at bottom
Of a holy-water-pot!"

This is a playful and capital picture of the
fascis descensus Averni, and alas! the consequences.

"And as his new associates praised him,
So his pristine virtue faded:
The higher with eulogy they raised him,
The lower his organ he degraded.
But, virtue will be laid asleep
In mightiest Heroes. We must keep
Æneas' example by us!"

Awhile, like Virgil, we must drop the 'plus.'"
His life, habits, and conversation at Nantes are
consonant to this Luciferian downfall, and the
elderly sisters are shocked by his profanity and
blackguard talk. They marvel what their juniors
at Nevers could have found to edify them, and
send him back disgraced. Indeed it was time,
for when he gave way to a fit of swearing the
confusion was terrific.

"The consecrated Building rocks,
As cleft with earthquakes, or the thunder's shocks!
Aghast, the Sisters fly, with rout and loss,
Forgetting, some, the signal of the Cross.
The Calendar's supply of Guardian Saints
Falls short of the demand!—One screams—another faints:
Some, thinking 'twas the final day of doom,
Rush to the wood-hole—to the cellar some:
And, tumbling in the scurry, Sister Ruth
Knocks out her forehead and her only tooth!"

The disgrace is continued in his pristine home,
but, after long punishment he is restored to
petting, and but we will by no
means tell what followed. Reader, read *Vert-Vert*,
and you will be entertained and learn.

MAHOMET'S CELESTIAL EXPERIENCES.

Lives of Mahomet and his Successors. By Wash-
ington Irving. 2 vols. 8vo. Vol. 1, Life of Ma-
homet. Murray.

BEFORE inserting a specimen of this new work,
we may notice that, in his preface, Mr. Irving
thus describes his design, and its execution:—
"It still bears the type of a work intended for a
Family Library, in constructing which the whole
aim of the writer has been to digest into an easy,
perspicuous, and flowing narrative, the admitted
facts concerning Mahomet, together with such
legends and traditions as have been wrought into
the whole system of oriental literature; and at
the same time to give such a summary of his faith
as might be sufficient for the more general reader."

The reader, therefore, must not look for a
theological, nor a hero-biographical, nor a deeply
studious work. The writer has rather taken the
more patent accounts and authorities, and expan-
diating on them in his own charming and, pic-
turesque manner, has brought the whole charac-
ter and the region of Mahomet's mighty enter-
prise before us, in the most popular of popular
shapes.

Nevertheless we do not believe that its attrac-
tions will convert as many to the Moslem faith as
did the decisive battle in Hungary, and all we
shall say of the Prophet is, that, for good or evil,
he never could have done what he did had not the
earth been prepared for him and his religion by
the utter perversion and corruption of Christianity.
Had that faith continued in anything like its ori-
ginal purity there never would have been a Ma-
homet—there would have been no need or occasion
for Him. His genius discovered that opening,
and, imbued by the wild and legendary spirit of
his native land, he became the Enthusiast capable
of founding a belief which has been, and is, held
by millions upon millions of his fellow-men. And
to what extravagance the human race can be led,
from Mahomet to Joe Smith, the Mormonite, it is
only necessary to credit the received account of
what the former saw in his

Night Journey through the Seven Heavens.

"An Asylum being provided for Mahomet in
the house of Mutem Ibn Adi, one of his disci-
ples, he ventured to return to Mecca. The
supernatural visitation of geni in the valley of
Naklah was soon followed by a vision or revela-
tion far more extraordinary, and which has ever
since remained a theme of comment and conjecture
among devout Mahometans. We allude to the
famous night journey to Jerusalem, and thence
to the seventh heaven. The particulars of it,
though given as if in the very words of Mahomet,
rest merely on tradition; some, however, cite
texts corroborative of it, scattered here and there
in the Koran.

"We do not pretend to give this vision or re-
velation in its amplitude and wild extravagance,
but will endeavour to seize upon its most essential
features.

"The night on which it occurred, is described as
one of the darkest and most awfully silent that
had ever been known. There was no crowing of
cocks nor barking of dogs; no howling of wild
beasts nor hooting of owls. The very waters
ceased to murmur, and the winds to whistle; all
nature seemed motionless and dead. In the mid-
watches of the night, Mahomet was roused by
a voice crying, "Awake, thou sleeper!" The
angel Gabriel stood before him. His forehead
was clear and serene, his complexion white as
snow, his hair floated on his shoulders; he had
wings of many dazzling hues, and his robes were
sown with pearls, and embroidered with gold.

"He brought Mahomet a white steed of wonder-
ful form and qualities, unlike any animal he had
ever seen; and, in truth, it differs from any animal
ever before described. It had a human face, but
the cheeks of a horse; its eyes were as jacinths,
and radiant as stars. It had eagles' wings all
glittering with rays of light; and its whole form
was resplendent with gems and precious stones.
It was a female, and from its dazzling splendour
and incredible velocity was called Al Borak, or
Lightning.

"Mahomet prepared to mount this supernatural
steed, but, as he extended his hand, it drew back
and reared.

"Be still, Oh Borak!" said Gabriel; "respect
the prophet of God. Never wert thou mounted
by mortal man more honoured of Allah."

"Oh Gabriel!" replied Al Borak, who at this
time was miraculously endowed with speech;
'did not Abraham of old, the friend of God,
bestride me when he visited his son Ismael? Oh
Gabriel! is not this the mediator, the inter-
cessor, the author of the profession of faith?"

"Even so, Oh Borak, this is Mahomet Ibn
Abdallah, of one of the tribes of Arabia the
Happy, and of the true faith. He is chief of the
sons of Adam, the greatest of the divine legates,
the seal of the prophets. All creatures must have
his intercession before they can enter paradise.
Heaven is on his right hand, to be the reward of
those who believe in him; the fire of Jehennam is
on his left hand, into which all shall be thrust
who oppose his doctrines."

"Oh Gabriel!" entreated Al Borak, "by the
faith existing between thee and him, prevail on
him to intercede for me at the day of the resur-
rection."

"Be assured, Oh Borak!" exclaimed Mahomet,
"that through my intercession thou shalt enter
paradise."

"No sooner had he uttered these words, than
the animal approached and submitted to be
mounted, then, rising with Mahomet on its back,
it soared aloft far above the mountains of
Mecca.

"As they passed like lightning between heaven
and earth, Gabriel cried aloud, 'Stop, Oh Ma-
homet! descend to the earth, and make the prayer
with two inflections of the body.'

"They alighted on the earth, and, having made
the prayer—

"Oh friend and well-beloved of my soul!" said
Mahomet; "why dost thou command me to pray
in this place?"

"Because it is Mount Sinai, on which God
communed with Moses."

"Mounting aloft, they again passed rapidly be-
tween heaven and earth, until Gabriel called out
a second time, 'Stop, Oh Mahomet! descend,
and make the prayer with two inflections.'

"They descended, Mahomet prayed, and again
demanded, 'Why didst thou command me to
pray in this place?"

"Because it is Bethlehem, where Jesus the Son
of Mary was born."

"They resumed their course through the air,
until a voice was heard on the right, exclaiming,
"Oh Mahomet, tarry a moment, that I may
speak to thee; of all created beings I am most de-
voted to thee."

"But Borak pressed forward, and Mahomet for-
bore to tarry; for he felt that it was not with him
to stay his course, but with God, the all powerful
and glorious.

"Another voice was now heard on the left, call-
ing on Mahomet in like words to tarry; but Borak
still pressed forward, and Mahomet tarried not.
He now beheld before him a damsel of ravishing
beauty, adorned with all the luxury and riches
of the earth. She beckoned him with alluring
smiles: 'Tarry a moment, Oh Mahomet, that I
may talk with thee. I who, of all beings, am the
most devoted to thee.' But still Borak pressed on,
and Mahomet tarried not; considering that it

was not with him to stay his course, but with God, the all-powerful and glorious.

"Addressing himself, however, to Gabriel, 'What voices are those I have heard?' said he: 'and what damsel is this who has beckoned to me?'"

"The first, Oh Mahomet, was the voice of a Jew; hadst thou listened to him, all thy nation would have been won to Judaism."

"The second was the voice of a Christian; hadst thou listened to him, thy people would have inclined to Christianity."

"The damsel was the world, with all its riches, its vanities, and allurements; hadst thou listened to her, thy nation would have chosen the pleasures of this life, rather than the bliss of eternity, and all would have been doomed to perdition."

"Continuing their aerial course, they arrived at the gate of the holy temple at Jerusalem, where, alighting from Al Borak, Mahomet fastened her to the rings where the prophets before him had fastened her. Then, entering the temple, he found there Abraham, and Moses, and Isa (Jesus), and many more of the prophets. After he had prayed in company with them for a time, a ladder of light was let down from heaven, until the lower end rested on the Shakra, or foundation-stone of the sacred house, being the stone of Jacob. Aided by the angel Gabriel, Mahomet ascended this ladder with the rapidity of lightning."

"Being arrived at the first heaven, Gabriel knocked at the gate. 'Who is there?' was demanded from within? 'Gabriel.' 'Who is with thee?' 'Mahomet.' 'Has he received his mission?' 'He has.' 'Then he is welcome' and the gate was opened."

"This first heaven was of pure silver, and in its resplendent vault the stars are suspended by chains of gold. In each star an angel is placed sentinel, to prevent the demons from scaling the sacred abodes. As Mahomet entered, an ancient man approached him, and Gabriel said, 'Here is thy father Adam, pay him reverence.' Mahomet did so and Adam embraced him, calling him the greatest among his children, and the first among the prophets."

"In this heaven were innumerable animals of all kinds, which Gabriel said were angels, who under these forms interceded with Allah for the various races of animals upon earth. Among these was a cock of dazzling whiteness, and of such marvellous height, that his crest touched the second heaven, though five hundred years' journey above the first. This wonderful bird saluted the ear of Allah each morning with his melodious chant. All creatures on earth, save man, are awakened by his voice, and all the fowls of his kind chant hallelujahs in emulation of his note."

"They now ascended to the second heaven. Gabriel, as before, knocked at the gate; the same questions and replies were exchanged; the door opened, and they entered."

"This heaven was all of polished steel, and dazzling splendour. Here they found Noah, who, embracing Mahomet, hailed him as the greatest among the prophets."

"Arrived at the third heaven, they entered with the same ceremonies. It was all studded with precious stones, and too brilliant for mortal eyes. Here was seated an angel of immeasurable height, whose eyes were seventy thousand days' journey apart. He had at his command a hundred thousand battalions of armed men. Before him was spread a vast book, in which he was continually writing and blotting out."

"This, Oh Mahomet," said Gabriel, 'is Asrael, the Angel of death, who is in the confidence of Allah. In the book before him he is continually writing the names of those who are to be born, and blotting out the names of those who have lived their allotted time, and who, therefore, instantly die.'

"They now mounted to the fourth heaven, formed of the finest silver. Among the angels

who inhabited it was one five hundred days' journey in height. His countenance was troubled, and rivers of tears ran from his eyes. 'This,' said Gabriel, 'is the angel of tears, appointed to weep over the sins of the children of men, and to predict the evils which await them.'

"The fifth heaven was of the finest gold. Here Mahomet was received by Aaron with embraces and congratulations. The avenging angel dwells in this heaven, and presides over the element of fire. Of all the angels seen by Mahomet, he was the most hideous and terrific. His visage seemed of copper, and was covered with wens and warts. His eyes flashed lightning, and he grasped a flaming lance. He sat on a throne surrounded by flames, and before him was a heap of red-hot chains. Were he to alight upon earth in his true form, the mountains would be consumed, the seas dried up, and all the inhabitants would die with terror. To him, and the angels his ministers, is entrusted the execution of divine vengeance on infidels and sinners."

"Leaving this awful abode, they mounted to the sixth heaven, composed of a transparent stone, called Hasala, which may be rendered, carbuncle. Here was a great angel, composed half of snow and half of fire; yet the snow melted not, nor was the fire extinguished. Around him a choir of lesser angels continually exclaimed, 'Oh, Allah! who has united snow and fire, unite all thy faithful servants in obedience to thy law.'

"This," said Gabriel, 'is the guardian angel of heaven and earth. It is he who dispatches angels unto individuals of thy nation, to incline them in favour of thy mission, and call them to the service of God; and he will continue to do so until the day of resurrection.'

"Here was the prophet Musa (Moses), who, however, instead of welcoming Mahomet with joy, as the other prophets had done, shed tears at sight of him."

"Wherefore dost thou weep?" inquired Mahomet.

"Because I behold a successor, who is destined to conduct more of his nation into paradise than ever I could of the backsliding children of Israel."

"Mounting hence to the seventh heaven, Mahomet was received by the patriarch Abraham. This blissful abode is formed of divine light, and of such transcendent glory that the tongue of man cannot describe it. One of its celestial inhabitants will suffice to give an idea of the rest. He surpassed the whole earth in magnitude, and had seventy thousand heads; each head seventy thousand mouths; each mouth seventy thousand tongues; each tongue spoke seventy thousand different languages, and all these were incessantly employed in chanting the praise of the Most High."

"While contemplating this wonderful being, Mahomet was suddenly transported aloft to the lotus-tree, called sedrat, which flourishes on the right hand of the invisible throne of Allah. The branches of this tree extended wider than the distance between the sun and the earth. Angels more numerous than the sands of the sea-shore, or of the beds of all the streams and rivers, rejoice beneath its shade. The leaves resemble the ears of an elephant; thousands of immortal birds sport among its branches, repeating the sublime verses of the Koran. Its fruits are milder than milk and sweeter than honey. If all the creatures of God were assembled, one of these fruits would be sufficient for their sustenance. Each seed encloses a houri, or celestial virgin, provided for the felicity of true believers. From this tree issue four rivers; two flow into the interior of paradise, two issue beyond it, and become the Nile and Euphrates."

"Mahomet and his celestial guide now proceeded to Al Mamou, or the House of Adoration: formed of red jacinths or rubies, and surrounded by innumerable lamps, perpetually burning. As Mahomet entered the portal, three vases were offered

him, one containing wine, the other milk, and the third, honey. He took and drank of the vase containing milk."

"Well hast thou done; auspicious is thy choice," exclaimed Gabriel. 'Hadst thou drunk of the wine, thy people had all gone astray.'

"The sacred house resembles in form the Caaba at Mecca, and is perpendicularly above it in the seventh heaven. It is visited every day by seventy thousand angels of the highest order. They were at this very time making their holy circuit, and Mahomet, joining with them, walked round it seven times."

"Gabriel could go no further. Mahomet now traversed, quicker than thought, an immense space; passing through two regions of dazzling light, and one of profound darkness. Emerging from this utter gloom, he was filled with awe and terror at finding himself in the presence of Allah, and but two bow-shots from his throne. The face of the Deity was covered with twenty thousand veils, for it would have annihilated man to look upon its glory. He put forth his hands, and placed one upon the breast and the other upon the shoulder of Mahomet, who felt a freezing chill penetrate to his heart and to the very marrow of his bones. It was followed by a feeling of ecstatic bliss, while a sweetness and fragrance prevailed around, which none can understand but those who have been in the divine presence."

"Mahomet now received from the Deity himself, many of the doctrines contained in the Koran; and fifty prayers prescribed as the daily duty of all true believers. When he descended from the divine presence and again met with Moses, the latter demanded what Allah had required. 'That I should make fifty prayers every day.'

"And thinkest thou to accomplish such a task? I have made the experiment before thee, I tried it with the children of Israel, but in vain; return, then, and beg a diminution of the task."

"Mahomet returned accordingly, and obtained a diminution of ten prayers; but when he related his success to Moses, the latter made the same objection to the daily amount of forty. By his advice Mahomet returned repeatedly, until the number was reduced to five."

"Moses still objected. 'Thinkest thou to exact five prayers daily from thy people? By Allah! I have had experience with the children of Israel, and such a demand is vain; return, therefore, and entreat still further mitigation of the task.'

"No," replied Mahomet, 'I have already asked indulgence until I am ashamed.' With these words he saluted Moses and departed."

"By the ladder of light he descended to the temple of Jerusalem, where he found Borak fastened as he had left her, and, mounting, was borne back in an instant to the place whence he had first been taken."

AUSTRIAN REVOLUTION.

The Political Movement in Austria during 1848-9.

By Baron Fillersdorf. Translated by G. Gaskell. Bentley.

If the publications on Italy and Hungary which have supplied matter for our *Gazette* since the beginning of the year, furnish materials for History, a yet higher degree of consequence, in this respect, must also be assigned to the present volume. Baron Fillersdorf, as a principal Minister of the Austrian Empire, held an eminent place, and took a prominent share in the events to which his narrative relates. He was colleague of the murdered Latour: he was the counsellor of concessions. Assassination and the pressure from

* We had for our last number extracted a quotation from this work, given (Dec. 15th) in the *New York Literary World* (where printer's proofs enabled the editor to anticipate the London issue, and we have now adopted the ready article into our review department, as one of the most readily separable and fitting specimens of the ever-pleasing author.—Ed. L. G.

without appear to have been too much for his nerve, and now he evokes his judgment to defend the acts *quorum pars magna fuit*, and excuse such as he allows may be questioned, as they have been by Count Stadion and many others, as of doubtful policy and injurious results. As an Apology, however, for the Administration of which he was one, of the Diet of which he was a member, and of himself individually, it is not our province to discuss the work; and, indeed, its political character renders it inexpedient for us to enter deeply into its statements. But they are, nevertheless, important, and well merit the consideration of every intelligent reader, especially in these reforming and revolutionary times.

The origin and causes of the general feeling which led to the crisis that shook the mighty Austrian Empire to its foundations, and nearly scattered it into fragmentary States, are ably traced, and from that tracing, if wisely construed, we think, the remedy against future and similar disasters may be extracted.

The Emperor Joseph introduced many invaluable improvements, but "It was, however, rather a peculiarity of his government that it overlooked the high importance of two institutions, or at least did not sufficiently appreciate them—institutions which in modern times have effectually conciliated the affections, and won the confidence, of the people, and whose advantages have afforded considerable increase in power, as well as in wealth: viz., the independence of the municipalities in administering their own affairs—and the representative system, which is confessedly the organ of the sentiments, desires, and requirements of the country. The impossibility of a free and vigorous municipal development existing apart from the possession of these privileges, added to the circumstance of the dissolution of the periodical aristocratical assemblies in the provinces, without their having been replaced by a better representation, and the repeated neglect to summon the Hungarian diet which is founded on the laws of that country, produced, in several circles of society, moodiness and discontent, and became for that and each succeeding ministry a source of lasting embarrassment."

The wars that ensued postponed the needful attention to internal affairs, and, though the peace of 1815 afforded ample time and opportunity, twenty years elapsed, and the dread of a representative system almost increased.

"A fatal idea, which perceived in every approach to a representative system the precursor or attendant of destructive revolutions, opposed threatening warnings, or obstinate resistance to every radical reform, although suggested by the Government itself."

The evil day was put off, but the elements of democratic dissatisfaction extended and ripened. The French Revolution of February set the match to the train, and the volcano exploded. A Constitution was hastily extemporized to meet the occasion; and the Baron contends for its excellence:

"Comparing," (he says) "the different Constitutions of the countries of Europe with those three which followed each other in such rapid succession in Austria, we find that all bear the imprint of one and the same idea, the only difference consisting in the exercise of the right they confer to take part in the legislation. The Charter of the 25th of April did not boast the merit of originality. It was in the greater part an imitation of the Belgic fundamental laws, and chose them as its prototype, as having been generated under circumstances similar to those which prevailed in Austria. And truly the constitution of Belgium has in so brief a time poured on that country happiness, contentment, harmony, and prosperity, and established such stable security, that it must be numbered amongst the most blissful realms in Europe. Whatever judgment may be formed on the efforts of the ministry to obtain

as soon as possible the results of a settled legislation, no man will be found at this moment, to whatever principles and political system he may adhere who can conceal a sorrowful feeling when he reflects how fortunate Austria might have been in pursuing the constitutional path and how many troubles and calamities might have been avoided, if the time devoted to sketching a fundamental law, and endeavouring to promote the development of all new institutions had been rightly employed.

"Next to the fundamental law came that of the provisory election. Against this, also, complaints had been heard, derived from two diametrically opposite sources; one party asserting, that property had too slight an influence in composing the representation of the country, and the other, that, by a system of direct election, confidence would not be inspired. The composition of the different assemblies in modern times has sufficiently shown how easily, in this respect, the keenest calculations and presumptions may be founded in error; and we ought solely to deduce this valuable lesson, that when the predominating ideas of the epoch, the increased cultivation of the mind and individual merit, claim an equal participation in public affairs, the efforts of a government to avert this tendency remain commonly without effect.

"With these two organic proclamations, as the principal motors of administration, the re-organization of Austria was to commence; and thus the terminus would be reached on the road of revolution, and the path of constitutional reform be entered upon. The judgment on the concessions contained in them varied exceedingly, and this diversity must be imputed to the fact, that the population had been surprised with these benefits, before it was prepared to bear unlimited liberty, and to use it without abuse. In countries where the people have attained a certain degree of political maturity, where experience and long habit have familiarised them with the most important affairs of the Commonwealth, we may expect to find that their reasoning will be more lucid; that greater solidity of sentiments will be met with, and that their character and actions will be guided by honesty. In Austria the first constitutional ministry, not finding the above mentioned qualifications, was obliged to have always in view, the employment of its best efforts to remove the slightest shade of mistrust, which arose in consequence of those first concessions which had been obtained by extortion."

But flood-gates once broken open are not so easily shut. The National Guard of Vienna contained some fiery spirits, and foreign emissaries were not wanting, and a Club was soon formed which literally forced and dictated to the Ministers in their own Bureaux. Then the Academic youths took up the game; and between the two the revolution was completed, the lads and the mob were masters of the Austrian capital, and the Sovereign fled to Innsbruck.

The author denies that the government showed pusillanimity; the validity of which justification we leave for politicians to determine—at any rate the Ministry did not die at their posts: "They willingly underwent the lesser evil of being taunted with weakness, rather than expose the monarchy; and advised the Emperor to yield to all the required concessions. They did not conceal from themselves, however, that by this step their authority, without which no prominent station can possibly exist, was nullified, and again petitioned for their dismissal."—They did not think it safe to fight for the stake at issue, and by way of comparison the Baron asserts:—

"A time will come when the world will estimate this as the noblest and wisest act in the government of Louis-Philippe—his preferring to renounce a throne which he might possibly have retained, by venturing the hazardous means of suppressing by force a sanguinary insurrection.

When the French nation, enabled by sober recognition of its interests, shall return to the monarchical system, it will certainly acknowledge this generous manner of acting, which did not attempt to invest the dynasty with its rights by violent means."

With these brief notes we will dismiss this universally important subject, and only advert to a single point where our information fails us. The Baron, speaking of the reduction of Vienna by General Prince Windischgrätz, says:—

"When the inhabitants of the metropolis, carried away by illusion, were resolved upon making a violent resistance, the General to whom were entrusted the destinies of Vienna, might, by conciliatory words, have disarmed an irritated population, secured order, and obtained that obedience to the law which is of the greatest importance. I myself undertook a mission for the purpose of inducing him to the persuasion that it was in his power to add to military honour and glory the sentiments of a generous mind, and to preserve to the monarch who had already, by his clemency, acquired the epithet of 'the Benign,' those sympathies which his noble heart had created; but it was the will of fate that the submission of the capital should be obtained only after the corpses of many of the citizens lay buried under heaps of ruins, leaving behind feelings of bitterness in the hearts of the people and deplorable destruction in the city as its monuments."

Now, what we desire to know is, what "words" could have been used by the Austrian general to produce the effect, which Baron Pillersdorf affirms he might have used, and avoided the dreadful sacrifices which ended this deplorable contest.

SUMMARY.

Eight Essays. By R. W. Emerson. Slater.

Nature, and Lectures on War. The same.

We have delivered our opinion of Mr. Emerson on larger occasions, and shall leave him "in little" to the world's taste and judgment. To truth he is mystical—to religion dangerous. In idea Rousseauish—in style Carlyleish,—an American edition of a school which eschews common sense, and sets up a bewildered and bewildering Imagination, in enthusiastic tropes and affectations, to be the God for human guidance. When we worship Will-o'-the-wisps, such should be our priests.

The Teacher's Collect Book. By the Rev. H. Kitton. Guillaume.

A VERY minute and elaborate work, in which the Collects of the Church are, as it were, separated into the minutest particles, and every particle illustrated by inquiry as to meaning, and catechistical method.

Hymns: with Notes. By J. Joyce, A.M. Guillaume FAMILIAR, and religiously addressed to the humbler classes of his parish. The author heads his hymns with a holy text, upon which the verse is a paraphrase, and the notes an application. Such culture of the minds and feelings is very commendable.

New Library of Useful Knowledge: India, Ancient and Modern. Cradock and Co.

IN 64 pages, closely printed, but distinct, gives a concise idea of our Indian Empire and its products.

Deeds of Faith. By the Rev. J. M. Neale, M.A. Mozleys; Masters.

FROM the earliest martyrdoms to the account of the death of two Irish children from cold weather in 1848, the writer enforces one faith and one Church as the be all and end all of human happiness and salvation. It belongs to the school of high evangelical doctrine.

Cottage Cookery. By Esther Copley. Groombridge and Sons.

A REPRINT from the "Family Economist" of many simple and useful recipes for plain and cheap living.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.
ROYAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 10th.—Mr. Rennie, V.P., in the chair. Read:—"Experiments and Observations upon the Properties of Light. By Lord Brougham."—The author states that the optical inquiries of which he here gives an account were conducted in the first instance under the most favourable circumstances, arising from the climate of Provence, where they were commenced, being peculiarly adapted to such studies: he further states that he subsequently had the great benefit of a most excellent set of instruments made by M. Soleil of Paris; remarking, however, that this delicate apparatus is only required for experiments of a kind to depend upon nice measurements, and that all the principles which he has to note in this paper as the result of his experiments can be made with the most simple apparatus, and without any difficulty or expense. His statement of the result of his experiments is thrown into the form of definitions and propositions for the purpose of making it shorter and more distinct, and of subjecting his doctrines to a fuller scrutiny. He premises that he purposely avoids all arguments and suggestions upon the two rival theories, the Newtonian or Atomic, and the Undulatory.

The following are the author's Definitions and Propositions:—

Definitions.

1. *Flexion* is the bending of the rays of light out of their course in passing near bodies.
2. *Flexion* is of two kinds—*inflexion*, or the bending towards the body; *deflexion*, or the bending from the body.
3. *Flexibility*, *deflexibility*, *inflexibility* express the disposition of the homogeneous or colour-making rays to be bent, deflected, inflected by bodies near which they pass.

Propositions.

1. The flexion of any pencil or beam, whether of white or of homogenous light, is in some constant proportion to the breadth of the coloured fringes formed by the rays after passing by the bending body. Those fringes are not three, but a very great number, continually decreasing as they recede from the bending body, in deflexion, where only one bending body is acting; and they are real images of the luminous body by whose light they are formed.
2. The rays of light when inflected by bodies near which they pass are thrown into a condition or state which disposes them to be on one side more easily deflected than they were before the first flexion; and disposes them on the other side to be less easily deflected: and when deflected by bodies they are thrown into a condition or state which disposes them to be more easily inflected, and on the other side to be less easily inflected than they were before the first flexion.
3. The disposition communicated to the rays by the flexion is alternative; and after inflexion they cannot be again inflected on either side; nor after deflexion can they be deflected. But they may be deflected after inflexion, and inflected after deflexion, by acting on the sides disposed, and not by acting upon the sides polarized.
4. The disposition impressed upon the rays, whether to be easily deflected or easily inflected, is strongest nearest the first bending body, and decreases as the distance increases.
5. The fringes made by the second body acting upon the rays deflected by the first, must, according to the calculus applied to the case, be broader than those made by the second body deflecting those rays inflected by the first.
6. When one body only acts upon the rays, it must, by deflexion, form them into fringes or images, decreasing as the distance from the bending body increases. But when the rays deflected and disposed by one body are afterwards inflected by a second body, the fringes will increase as they recede from the direct rays. Also when the

fringes made by the inflexion of one body, and which increase with the distance from the direct rays, are deflected by a second body, the effect of the disposition and of the distances is such as to correct the effect of the first flexion, and the fringes by deflexion of the second body are made to decrease as they recede from the direct rays.

7. It is proved by experiment that the inflexion of the second body makes broader fringes or images than its deflexion, after the deflexion and inflexion of the first body respectively; and also that the deflexion fringes decrease, and the inflexion fringes increase with the distance from the direct rays.

8. The joint action of two bodies situated similarly with respect to the rays which pass between them so near as to be affected by both bodies, must, whatever be the law of their action, provided it be inversely as some power of the distance, produce fringes or images which increase with the distance from the direct rays.

9. It is proved by experiment that the fringes or images increase as the distance increases from the direct rays.

These propositions are illustrated by particular instances, and their truth is shown by experiments and by some mathematical investigations. The author concludes his paper by a few observations tending further to illustrate and confirm the foregoing propositions, and for the purpose of removing one or two difficulties which had occurred to others until they were met by facts, and also of showing the tendency of the results at which he had arrived.

ROYAL INSTITUTION.

Jan. 18th.—Mr. Grove, V.P., "On Some Recent Researches of Foreign Philosophers." Mr. Grove (having been suddenly requested to fill the place of the Dean of Westminster, who was unwell) selected, as the subjects of his communication, The Researches of Regnault on the Respiration of Animals, of Matteucci on the Relation between the direction of the Electric Current and its effect upon the Nerves, and those of Pasteur, on the Relation between the Crystalline Form of Bodies, and their Effect on Polarised Light.

He explained, by the aid of a diagram, the complex apparatus by which Regnault has been enabled to keep animals for long periods, either in normal or factitious atmospheres, supplying fresh and removing deteriorated air by the action of the apparatus alone, the temperature and the pressure being also regulated, the volumes of the supplied and removed gases carefully ascertained, and the latter subjected to accurate chemical analysis. By his experiments, the following points, which confirm old, and suggest new, views, were established:—

1st. Warm-blooded animals exhale nitrogen in proportion, from one-fiftieth to one-hundredth, or less, of the oxygen breathed.

2nd. Animals deprived of food absorb nitrogen in proportions similar to those in which it is exhaled in the first cases. Animals, when ill, or suffering from unusual food, also absorb nitrogen.

3rd. With animals nourished on farinaceous food, the carbonic acid exhaled is generally nearly equivalent to the oxygen inhaled. With animals fed on animal food, the proportion of carbonic acid is much less, in some cases not more, than six parts to ten of the oxygen inhaled.

4th. Consumption of oxygen, compared with the weight of the animal, is ten times greater in the case of small animals, such as sparrows, than with larger ones, as with fowls. This is apparently due to the exposure of a greater proportionate surface, and consequently greater cooling effect, of the external atmosphere, demanding more rapid respiration to keep up the animal heat.

5th. With hibernating animals, such as marmots, no unusual phenomena are presented when awake, but when in their torpid state they consume much less oxygen, can live in an atmos-

phere which would not support them when awake, they give off but little carbonic acid, and absorb oxygen and nitrogen to such an extent that they frequently increase in weight by respiration alone; this fact was first observed by M. Saxe of Neufchatel.

6th. Cold-blooded animals consume very little oxygen, and breathe considerably through the skin or by transpiration, insects however, from the large surface they expose, require as much oxygen for their support as mammals. M. Regnault confirms previous researches which had proved that an excess of oxygen in the atmosphere about three or four times the normal quantity produces no injurious effect, and that hydrogen may be substituted for nitrogen in the atmosphere without apparent injury to animal life. Mr. Grove showed two small birds which had been placed previously to the lecture in a bell glass containing oxygen and hydrogen in the proportions that form water, which were kept during the lecture in the same atmosphere, fresh gases from decomposed water being continuously supplied by a galvanic battery, and the carbonic acid produced by their respiration being absorbed by lime water, over which the bell-glass was inverted, the birds appeared to have in nowise suffered from having breathed decomposed water instead of atmospheric air.

Various other points connected with these researches were commented on, which our space does not permit us to insert. Mr. Grove pointed out that valuable researches on the influence of small portions of different gases on the animal economy, whether healthy or morbid, might be made by such apparatus as M. Regnault's; that the admixture of small portions of gas with the ordinary atmosphere might be available in therapeutics. He suggested as an example the probable influence of an atmosphere containing more carbonic acid than usual in promoting sleep. Nature, which does nothing in vain, gives us more carbonic acid in the night than in the day time, and the use as a narcotic of carbonic acid would be an imitation of nature, and, therefore, probably the least injurious form of medicine.

By Matteucci's experiments, which are contained in a paper communicated by Mr. Grove to the Royal Society, it is shown that when an electric current is passed, with certain precautions, in one direction through the muscular portions of a living animal, the motor nerves only are affected, and the limb is convulsed without any indication of pain; while, when the current is passed in the reverse direction, the nerves of sensation are affected, and the animal cries out, apparently suffering great pain, but no muscular convulsions take place. Mr. Grove mentioned an incident which had occurred to him many years ago, apparently connected with this class of phenomena. An acquaintance of his, who suffered from loss of the use of his lower extremities, wished to try the effect of galvanism, and Mr. Grove found that interrupted galvanic currents, which produced in his own body, or on that of any healthy person, violent shocks, or muscular contractions, but without pain, produced on the lower limbs of this gentleman not the slightest muscular contraction, but exquisite pain.

M. Pasteur observed in the crystallised double salt racemate of soda and ammonia two classes of crystals, hemihedral in opposite directions. On carefully separating these two sets of crystals, and making separate solutions of them, he found that one set turned the plane of polarization to the right, and the other to the left, while a mixture of the two, in proper proportions, produced no deviation in the plane. The chemical constitution of all these crystals is the same; thus we get a new character of molecular antagonism, preserved in the solid and liquid state, under isomeric chemical conditions. The same phenomena were observable in other racemates, and in the acids procured from these separate classes of crystals.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

Oxford, Jan. 14.—The following degrees were conferred:

Masters of Arts.—Rev. T. C. Southey, Taberdar of Queen's; Rev. H. G. Merriman, Fellow of New College; R. W. Gilbert, Rev. T. Podmore, Fellows of St. John's; Rev. J. H. P. A. M. Maynard, Pembroke College; Rev. E. Coffin, Demy of Magdalen.
Bachelors of Arts.—E. W. Culsha, Magdalen Hall; H. B. Earle, Exeter.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Jan. 10th.—Sir Robert Inglis, vice-president, in the chair. The Secretary read a report by Capt. W. H. Smith, the director, on the collection of coins, chiefly Roman, presented to the Society by Mr. Kerich, of Cambridge, some of which he represented as being rare; while others were of small value, and even of doubtful authenticity. As the collection itself is very extensive, he concluded by recommending that a more careful classification of it should be made; for which purpose a committee was appointed, consisting of Captain Smith, Mr. Akerman, and Mr. C. Rosch Smith, each of which is to proceed to a thorough examination of a particular division of the coins. Their united report and catalogue will be laid before the Society, and probably printed. This report was followed by a letter from Mr. Milner, of Hull, on a curious Saxon font at Kirkbarn, near Driffield. The Secretary next read a paper by Mr. B. Williams, in which he attempted to identify the Kingston of the Saxon chronicle with the Kingston of the Witenagemot of 931, and to show that it was not Kingston-upon-Thames.

Jan. 17th.—Mr. Payne Collier, vice-president, in the chair. Lord Albert Denison presented to the Society a collection of more than fifty deeds, ranging from the beginning of the thirteenth to the middle of the seventeenth centuries, and relating chiefly to lands in the parish of Mottram, in Cheshire, and to the families of Godley, Mottram, Royle, and others who successively held possession of them. These deeds had been placed by their former possessor, Mr. Owen, in the hands of Lord Albert Denison, to be placed by his lordship where he should judge that they would be most likely to be preserved safely, and rendered accessible. Mr. J. Evans, of Hemel Hempstead, communicated a drawing of an urn (apparently of the late Roman period) found at Market Bosworth in 1848, with some notes on the discovery. The Secretary read a paper by Mr. B. Williams on the customs of the manor of Bampton, in Oxfordshire, in which he endeavoured to trace the remains of many of the old Saxon agricultural and local officers and laws.

Jan. 24th.—Lord Mahon, president, in the chair. Mr. Parker of Oxford exhibited drawings of painted glass preserved in France, which he considered to be of the eleventh century, but which we think may more properly be attributed to the twelfth. A bronze door-knocker of the sixteenth century was exhibited, supposed to be the work of John of Bologna, or of some one of his school. Sir Henry Ellis communicated some original documents, of the sixteenth century, one of which was a paper signed by the commanders of the ships in pursuit of the defeated Spanish Armada, declaring their intentions to follow the Spanish ships as long as they remained near the English coast, but that they were necessitated for want of provisions to refit. The other of these documents was an account of persons appointed to keep the borders of Scotland, in the time of Henry the Eighth, and was curious inasmuch as it described the position, wealth, and character of some of the principal English nobles and gentlemen on the borders. Lord Mahon exhibited a large and curious collection of Babylonian cylinders, recently brought by Major Rawlinson from the East; and stated that he expected that that distinguished scholar and antiquarian would attend the next meeting of the society to exhibit other Syrian antiquities.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY:—ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.

[The important Assyrian matter in this *Gazette* deserves the attention and constant remembrance, as data, of all who are interested in these very ancient researches into the earliest history of mankind. We have consequently arranged in succession the three articles relating to the subject.—Ed. L. G.]

Jan. 19th.—Major Rawlinson, at a very numerous meeting, began the reading of his long-wished-for communication "On the Interesting Monuments found on the Site, and in the Vicinity, of Nineveh, the ancient Capital of the Assyrian Empire." In addition to the members, the meeting was attended by a large number of distinguished visitors. The Earl of Ellesmere, president of the society, took the chair.

Major Rawlinson commenced his paper with some remarks on the comparative geography of Assyria. He showed that the ruins of Nimrud must represent the old Biblical city of Calah, or Halah, the latter form assimilating very closely to the cuneiform orthography of the name; and further proofs being afforded by the Greek title of Calachene, belonging to the district, by the evident connexion of Lachisa (as the Samaritan version terms Calah), with Xenophon's Larissa, and by the absolute identity between Hadith, which is the Chaldee name for Calah, and the Haditha of the Arabs, a large town in the immediate vicinity. The true Nineveh, an older city probably than Halah, Major Rawlinson placed at Nebi Yunas, opposite to Mosul; and he spoke of Koyunjik as the suburb of Mespila, while he described Khorsabad as a city named especially after the king who founded it, and suggested the possible identity of the king's name, read under one form as Sargon, with the title of Sarun, or Sarghun, which the Arabs apply to the ruins.

The chronological question was next briefly noticed, and it was stated that although nothing positive had been yet elicited from the inscriptions, as to the origin or duration of the Assyrian monarchy, there were still good grounds for assigning the earlier Nimrud sculptures to the 12th, or perhaps the 13th, century before the Christian era—a date which would pretty well synchronise with the temporary depression of Egypt at the close of the 18th dynasty, and which would thus account for the sudden aggrandisement of Assyria.

Allusion was then made to the extreme difficulty of rendering the inscriptions of Nimrud and Khorsabad available for the illustration of history, owing to the practice which the Assyrians followed of distinguishing their proper names by the sense, rather than by the sound; so that the form of a name could be varied *ad libitum*, by the employment of synonyms, expressed either symbolically or phonetically. A further source of confusion was noticed in the multiplicity of names attaching to the different divinities, any one of which might be employed in forming a king's name, without regard to phonetic uniformity.

The paper then went on to examine the Assyrian inscriptions. It was stated that the Nimrud kings were undoubtedly the most ancient of whom any records have yet been discovered on the Tigris or Euphrates. Six of these kings who followed in a line of direct descent were enumerated by name, they were:—Hevenk I. (a name suggested to be the same as the Evechius of Alexander Polyhistor, whom Syncellus identified with Nimrod; Altibar; Asser-adanpal or Sardanapalus; Temen-bar; Husi-hem; and Hevenk II. A earlier monarch, whom Major Rawlinson distinguished as Temenbar I, and whom he conjectured to be the father of Hevenk I, was also spoken of as the original founder of the city of Halah, or Nimrud.

A brief account was then given of Sardanapalus, the builder of the N. W. palace at Nimrud, and the earliest Assyrian king whose inscriptions have come down to us. He was shown to be the warlike Sardanapalus, whose tomb was described by Amyntas at the gate of the Assyrian capital, and whom Callisthenes took care to distinguish from the better known voluptuary of

historical romance. Portions of the dedicatory inscription, which is repeated above 100 times upon his palace, were read and explained. The gods whom he worshipped—Assarac, and Beltilis the shining bar, Ani, and Dagon, were duly enumerated; and a special note was read on the subject of Assarac, the head of the Assyrian Pantheon, showing him to be the same as the Biblical Nisroch, and comparing him with the Chronos of the Greeks. A list was also given of the provinces tributary to Assyria at the period of the building of this palace by Sardanapalus. The list comprised many districts of Syria and Asia Minor, the country upon the Tigris, Armenia, the lands watered by the two Zab, and the lower regions, as far as the shores of the Persian Gulf. It was remarked that Phenicia, apparently at this period, had not come under the dominion of Assyria, though its conquest must have occurred very shortly afterwards, Sardanapalus having recorded upon certain votive bulls and lions, how, after having passed the great desert into Syria he had received the tribute of Tyre and Sidon, of Akarra, of Gubul, and of Arvad.

After some further observations on the extent and power of Assyria under Sardanapalus, Major Rawlinson proceeded to read the annals of Temen-bar II, who, it was observed, had commemorated his wars upon the black obelisk, now in the British Museum, upon the two large bulls in the centre palace of Nimrud, and also upon the sitting figure discovered at Kileh Shergat. The obelisk inscription, it was stated, commenced with an invocation to the Assyrian gods, among whom the following names could be identified with some certainty:—Assarac, Ani, Nit, Artank, Beltilis, Shemir, Bar; and perhaps also Ammun and Horus, Nebe, Tal and Set. Temen-bar then recorded his genealogy, naming his father, Sardanapalus, and his grandfather, Altibar; and afterwards went on to chronicle his wars, describing the events of each regnal year with great exactness, and at the same time with remarkable simplicity. These wars appeared to be directed against all the nations contiguous with Assyria. In Syria Proper the chief antagonists of the king were Hem-ithra and Ar-hulena, the rulers of Atesh (which Major Rawlinson considered to be Hems or Emessa), and Hamath, who were confederated with the Sheta and the twelve tribes of the upper and lower country. These Sheta (or Khetta, according to the usual orthography at Khorsabad), were, Major Rawlinson observed, undoubtedly the same as the Khita of Egyptian history. They appeared to be a large tribe, holding the entire country between the Syrian desert and the Mediterranean; and it was suggested that the Hittites of Scripture were either an offshoot from, or a fragment of, the same nation. On one occasion, while the king was in this country of Atesh, or Hems, among the tribes of the Sheta, he received the tribute of Tyre, and Sidon, and Gebal.

The expeditions of the king, whether directed against Syria Proper, or Asia Minor, or Upper Armenia, were usually prefaced with the phrase—"I crossed the Euphrates." Some hundreds of names were repeated of countries, of tribes, and of nations, of which a few only could be identified.

In the ninth year of the king's reign, he led an expedition to the southward, to the land of Shinar, or Babylonia, raising altars to the gods in the cities of Shinar and Bersippa, and subsequently pursuing his march as far as the land of the Chaldees, who dwelt upon the sea coast. On two occasions, in his sixteenth and twenty-fourth years, the king led his armies to the eastward, crossing the lower Zab, and, ascending the range of Zagros, he recounts his movements in this direction against the Arians (the Arii of Herodotus), the Persians, the Medes, and the Armenians of Kharkhar. On two other occasions he sent his General, Tetarassar, to wage war upon

the same nations, and among the conquests of this chief is found the land of Minni, which was undoubtedly, as Major Rawlinson observed, the country of that name associated by the prophet Jeremiah with Ararat and Askenaz, in his denunciations against Babylon, and which appeared to be the province of which Van was the capital, as the local title of the sovereigns recorded at that place very nearly corresponds with the Assyrian orthography of Minnie.

After following the record through the whole series of the 31 years of Temen-bar's reign, Major Rawlinson made a few remarks on the epigraphs attached to the figures sculptured on the obelisk. These he explained as describing the tribute brought in from different lands to the Assyrian king. The rare animals, about which so much curiosity has been excited—that is, the two-humped camel, the elephant, the wild bull, the unicorn, the antelope, the monkeys, and the baboons—were stated to appear among the tribute of a country named Misr, which there were grounds for supposing might be the same as Egypt, inasmuch as the sculptures of Khorsabad proved that Misr adjoined Syria, and as the same name (that is, a name pronounced in the same manner, though written with a different initial character) was used at Persepolis and Behistun for the Persian Mudraya. It was further stated, that the only animals specifically mentioned in the epigraphs were horses and camels, the latter being called, "beasts of the desert with the double back," and it was remarked that if Misr should ultimately prove to designate Egypt, it would be necessary to suppose that those animals had been imported into the country, as curiosities, from India.

In conclusion, Major Rawlinson alluded very briefly to the later inscriptions of Assyria. He stated his belief that an interregnum occurred between Hevenk II. and the king who built Khorsabad; but that this interregnum was of no great duration, for not only were the titles, the language, and the mythology of the two periods almost identical, but the Khorsabad king had recorded his residence in the palace of Nimrud, built by Sardanapalus, "the fourth in descent from myself." If, indeed, it was noticed, this last phrase were correctly rendered, it would show that as Hevenk II., Husi-hem, and Temen-bar II. exactly filled up the interval indicated between the Khorsabad king and Sardanapalus, the line was considered, notwithstanding the interregnum, to have been kept on in a continuous succession. At any rate, Major Rawlinson thought that all the inscriptions of Assyria yet discovered, whether found at Nimrud or Khorsabad, or at Koyunjik, belonged to that line of kings known in history as the dynasty of Ninus and Semiramis. He did not believe that we had hitherto found any memorials of the lower dynasty, or of those kings mentioned in Scripture as cotemporary with the kingdoms of Israel and Judah; and he almost expected that if such memorials should come to light, Assyria would be found, during the period in question, to have been in dependence on the lords paramount of Media.

Before sitting down, Major Rawlinson engaged to read to the society, at an early date, a précis of all the other inscriptions which he had had an opportunity of examining, observing that the Khorsabad inscriptions furnished the most valuable material yet discovered for the early geography of the East, and were of particular interest in showing that a strong Scythic element had been introduced into the population of Western Asia during the period which intervened between the eras of Nimrud and Khorsabad.

Some time ago we mentioned the arrival of a portion of Ninevite antiquities, which we supposed were for the British Museum, but on inquiry found that they had been presented by

Mr. Layard to Sir John Guest, whose seat, Canford Manor, they now adorn, in a manner the interest of which may be estimated from the following description of them:—

The sculptures consist of ten bas-reliefs, and are of two distinct characters. Five of them are from Birs Nimroud, and in a very perfect state; the other five (from Koyunjik) are much smaller in size, and have suffered more from the lapse of time. Some of the Canford marbles differ, but in minute particulars, from those of which Mr. Layard has given so faithful a representation in the "Monuments of Nineveh."

No. 1 is a colossal head with a pointed helmet, which has three clasping horns, and is ornamented with a fleur-de-lis (Rem. of Nin. II. 462). The eardrop is in the form of a Maltese cross. The dimensions are 2 ft. 1 in. by 1 ft. 7 in.

No. 2 consists of a Nisroch, or eagle-headed divinity, of colossal size. It is very similar to that given in Rem. of Nin. (I. 64), and in Mon. of Nin. (pl. 36). The following are the only points in which the sculpture and the plates differ:—The Canford bas-relief has a rosette on both bracelets, and has also armlets above the elbow, which are not in the plates. These armlets are formed of a simple band, the ends of which do not unite, but pass beyond each other on the outside of the arm. (Mon. of Nin. pl. 41). In the sculpture also there are but two dagger hilts, both of which are quite plain; whereas in the plates there are three, one of which has an animal's head for the handle. The square vessel which the figure carries in his left hand is without any ornament. Dimensions, 8 ft. by 5 ft. 6 in.

No. 3 consists of two gigantic forms—that of a winged priest and his attendant. The former resembles the Nisroch with the exception of the head being human, with stiffly curled beard and hair. His head-dress is formed of the horned cap, and his ear ornamented with a plain drop. He carries the fircone in his uplifted right hand, and in his left the square vessel or basket, which is ornamented on its side with a representation of two worshippers on each side of the cone bearing tree of life; above which is a winged circle, the emblem of the Triune deity. (Mon. of Nin., pl. 34). The attendant is turned in a contrary direction. He holds the weapons of his lord, a mace, a bow, a quiver and a sword, all richly decorated. The mace (Rem. of Nin. II. 343) is adorned with a rosette, and ends in a thong. The left hand grasps the bow (Rem. of Nin. II. 341) which is seen over the shoulder. The sword is fixed in the girdle, the hilt appearing in front; and the end of the sheath (Mon. of Nin., pl. 52, fig. 2) is formed nearly like that in Rem. of Nin. (II. 298), of "two entire lions clasped together, their heads turned outwards and their mouths open." The quiver (Rem. of Nin. II. 299) hangs at his back, and is suspended by a thong, which attaches it to an imperfect ring. On the top of the quiver are two lightly traced borders, one of the lotus (Rem. of Nin. II. 298, and II. 472) and cone (Rem. of Nin. II. 471) and honey-suckle combined, and the other a row of ostriches (Rem. of Nin. II. 437). This attendant wears round his neck a sort of very narrow breastplate, on which is carved the frequently occurring ornament of the lotus or tulip-flower (Rem. of Nin. II. 298), the honey-suckle, and cone. It is slung round the neck by a string. Red paint may still be discerned on the sandals. (Rem. of Nin. II. 234, fig. 1). Dimensions, 7 ft. 10 in. by 8 ft.

No. 4. This slab contains two groups, divided from each other by a broad band of inscription in the cuneiform character. The upper group is composed of two kneeling figures, worshipping at the tree of life. It is precisely similar to that given in Layard's Mon. of Nin. (pl. 7), but on the right of the figures is a fragment of another tree. The lower group represents two Nisrochs worshipping the tree in a standing posture. The size of

the figures in this slab is considerably less than life. The dimensions of the whole slab are 7 ft. 7 in. by 6 ft. 11 in.

No. 5 consists of a winged figure standing in the act of devotion, and an attendant. The winged figure holds in the right hand a cup, in the left a bow, with the point on the ground; wears the double pointed helmet, and is in general character similar to that in No. 3; but the whole dress is far more elaborately and minutely decorated, particularly the breastplate, which is entirely covered with delicately traced designs. The chief of these ornaments are the winged bulls (Rem. of Nin. II. 295, fig. 2) Nisrochs, or human figures, in kneeling or standing postures, worshipping the tree of life; one of the most remarkable of these is a man holding in each hand by the mane a prancing winged horse (Rem. of Nin. II. 461, and Mon. of Nin. 44 pl. fig. 1). The robes of the attendant also are very highly ornamented with the cone, lotus and honey-suckle, Nisrochs and the tree of life. There is also a border of distinct and somewhat large honey-suckles and ostriches (Mon. of Nin. 43 pl., fig. 5). His necklace and eardrops are plain, and the red paint still remains on his sandals. In the right hand is a fan or fly-flapper, the handle of which is very long, and terminates in a ram's head. In the left is the cover or case of the cup held by the ring, the handle of which is also curved, and ends in a ram's head, like the fan. The general appearance of this attendant, as well as of that in slab 3, is similar to those in Mon. of Nin., (pl. 5) but the much greater elaborateness and richness of detail of both the dresses on this slab leads to the impression of its being of more recent execution than the four previously described. Figures colossal. Dimensions, 7 ft. 8 in. by 7 ft. 6 in. Through the middle of slabs 2, 3, 5, there are several lines of cuneiform inscription. The above five specimens are from Birs Nimroud.

No. 6. This sculpture contains a horse, on which there appear to be seated two figures, one less than the other. Behind the figures is a sort of box, fastened on the horse by many straps. The horse is standing on the bank of a river (represented by waving lines and fishes, at the bottom of the slab), held by an attendant, with inflated skin upon his back, prepared to cross. A palm-tree is visible in the background. This slab is much defaced. Dimensions, 2 ft. 8 in. by 2 ft.

No. 7. A man with a long lance, in a pointed helmet, and a bow and quiver slung over his back, holds with his right hand the bridle of the horse. He is clothed in armour to the middle of his skirt, and a beautiful belt, ornamented with rosettes, sustains his sword. A palm-tree appears in the background, which is rugged and undulating in conical mounds. Dimensions, 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 3 in.

No. 8. This slab represents a man in a pointed helmet. His right hand is raised above his head in the attitude of striking, with a thong or club, two pinioned prisoners, whose dress, like that of all other captives, is a sort of kilt, reaching only to the knees. The fourth figure is a man with a bag slung over his shoulder, and another in his hand. This sculpture is very much defaced. Dimensions, 1 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 5 in.

No. 9. A group of figures, consisting of two male and two female prisoners and their warder, who has his arm raised to strike one of the former. Three of the captives carry bowls on their heads. Dimensions, 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 4 in.

No. 10. Two horses' heads, similar to those in Remains of Nineveh, (II. 353), except that in the Canford Marbles the horses are without the plume and tassel. A fragment. Dimensions, 8½ in. by 7½ in.

(From a Correspondent.)

MR. FRASER, in his little work on Mesopotamia and Assyria (p. 144), thinks Mr. Ainsworth "greatly

in error," "in the elevation he assigns to the principal mounds on the site of ancient Babylon;" viz. —

"64 feet to the northernmost, or 'Mujelibé of Rich; 28 feet to the 'Kasr' of the same author; 23 feet to the 'Amran Ibn Ali' mound" (p. 68).

Rich does not give the elevation of the mound of El Kasr, but assigns to that of Amran Ibn Ali about 50 or 60 feet. To the Mujelibé (S. E., or highest angle), 141 feet. Sir R. Porter follows Rich's measurements apparently, in assigning 140 feet to the highest part of the Mujelibé. The mound of El Kasr, he says, "is full 70 feet above the general level;" and that of Amran Ibn Ali he describes as "quite as high as the Kasr."

Niebuhr, who travelled in 1765, does not mention the Mujelibé; but Beauchamp, twenty years after, gives its height at about 180 feet.

As Mr. Fraser does not give any measurements of his own or of subsequent travellers, my companion and myself, in a recent trip to the ruins of Babylon, endeavoured to ascertain which of these conflicting statements approached nearest to truth. The following are the results we obtained by levelling:—

Mujelibé of Rich (S. E. angle), 108 feet;

El Kasr (the Palace and hanging gardens of Rich), 40 feet to Athlet's tree, and 52 feet to highest point, S. E.

Amran Ibn Ali (rough calculation), 54 feet.

There is another point on the mound of the Mujelibé, a little retired from the angle of the crest tank, which by rough measurement was found to be 12 feet higher, giving a total of 120 feet. The surface of the top of the mound dips at an angle of 3 deg. towards the Euphrates.

The height of the Birs Nimrud appears to have been pretty accurately estimated by Rich at 235 feet from the plain below to the top of the masonry—the height of the mound 198 feet, and that of the masonry on the top, 37 feet.

The direct distance from Hillah to the Birs, which has been stated at from 6 to 10 or 11 miles (Fraser, p. 132), is 6½ miles. The travelling distance depends on the state of the marshy ground between it and Hillah, which causes a detour of two or three miles.

The direct distance of the Birs from the El Kasr, or Palace, of Rich, is 8½ miles, and to the Mujelibé of Rich about the same distance.

The Birs bears from the Mujelibé S. 26 deg. W.

" Ditto from El Kasr, S. 22 deg. W.

" Ditto from Amran, S. 20 deg. W.

Before taking leave of the mounds supposed to stand on the site of ancient Babylon, it may be observed, that the Arabs on the spot invariably called the Mujelibé of Rich "Babel," and the Kasr of Rich "El Maklubeh"—the Overthrown, or Reversed—a fact which bears out the statement of Mr. Ainsworth respecting the true nomenclature of these two mounds.

The mound of El Heimar bears E. 6 degs. S. from the east end of the Mujelibé. Direct distance, 8½ miles, according to the observation of my companion. This would place it entirely out of the precincts of the Babylon of Herodotus, admitting that the Euphrates has not since changed its course—a theory of Rennell's which our observations did not tend to confirm.

The direct distance between El Heimar and the Birs, according to Colonel Chesney (Fraser, p. 141, Note), is more than 20 miles, and is computed by Mr. Fraser at "not less than 15 miles." We found it to measure 17 English miles—facts which militate strongly against the theory which would include both these structures within the Babylon of Herodotus.

The height of the great pile of Akkarkoof has been variously estimated by different writers. Ives (Travels, pp. 297, 298), states it at 126 English feet; Niebuhr at about 70 feet (Voyage, vol. 2, p. 248); Rich, following Ives, at 126 feet. Sir R. Porter (vol. 2, p. 277) says it stands upon a gently

gradual elevation, ascending from the perfect level upwards of 60 yards. "The height of the Tépése from the summit of the gradual slope, from which the more ponderous fabric shoots upwards to the towering, irregular top of the whole, may be about 125 or 130 feet."

Our own trigonometrical measurements, made with a box sextant, gave 137½ feet as the total height of the whole from the level plain below. The height of the brick-work above the pile of fallen rubbish at its base, and the gradual sloping mound on which it rests, varies from about 45 to nearly 70 feet—an elevation agreeing pretty closely with Niebuhr's measurement, which evidently referred to the height of the brick-work still standing above the rubbish.

The willow, but not the weeping willow, yet lingers near the waters of Babylon. A venerable specimen of this beautiful tree may still be seen overhanging the Euphrates, between the Mujelibé and the Kasr; and another of later growth flourishes in a date grove close to the north of the Kasr. Both are within the precincts of the ancient city.

The tree is not the poplar willow, or *Gnarab* of the Arabs, which bears both a heart-shaped and lance-shaped leaf on the same tree, but a true willow, the *Safsaf* of the Arabs.

N.B.—The measurements are in English feet and miles, and the bearings are all magnetic. The present variation of the compass is about 8 degrees West.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Monday.—Geographical, (Notes on Japan Sin-Keang, by Dr. Gutzlaff) 8½ p.m.—Entomological (anniversary) 8 p.m.—Medical, 8 p.m.

Tuesday.—Civil Engineers (Discussion on the "Artesian" Wells through the London and Plastic clays), 8 p.m.

Wednesday.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.

Thursday.—Royal, 8½ p.m.—Antiquaries, 8 p.m.—Royal Academy, (Mr. Cockerell's fifth lecture on Architecture), 8 p.m.

Friday.—Royal Institution (Professor Faraday on the Electricity of the Air), 8½ p.m.—Botanical, 8 p.m.

Saturday.—Asiatic, 2 p.m.—Westminster Medical, 8 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

The Installation of His Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, at Madras. By F. C. Lewis, jun. Engraved by F. C. Lewis, and C. G. Lewis.

We do not often find talent so closely and distinctly hereditary as in the present instance; and heartily do we recognize it, since we are indebted to it for the above-named very interesting production, and for other Eastern subjects of no less characteristic and artistic merit, though in themselves possessing minor claims to national regard. The Durbar of the youthful prince of the Carnatic is every way deserving of attention. It was, we observe, painted for His Highness as an offering to our Queen, and it represents a ceremony of mingled Oriental and European splendour, so conducive to the effect of a well-executed picture. The portraits of some fifty of our countrymen are there (the likenesses of some of whom who are known to us at once distinguish), but the leading interest attaches, as it ought to do, to the principal figure on the canvas, seated on his magnificent throne, and attended by his relatives and officers of state in the various picturesque costumes of their stations and country. In himself the Prince is an object of uncommon attraction to the English spectator or reader. His love of the fine arts is shown by their patronage thus exhibited; but we are informed that his love of literature equally distinguishes him from the great majority of Indian Rulers. Although only recently of age he has a noble library, is in manners the model of a complete English gentleman, in his disposition munificent, and in his mental cultivation amply informed and highly intel-

tual. This is a rare character for an Eastern Prince; and not only does honour to the individual, but to the Supreme Government which has bestowed so much pains on his education, and fitted him so nobly for the eminent position he is called upon to fill. But we have to apologize for this personal pen and ink sketch whilst we have the actual resemblance before us; which, nevertheless, we trust, will be acceptable to our readers, few of whom can be acquainted with the young and most promising Nabob of the Carnatic. To return to our notice. The disposition of so many persons is excellently arranged, and there is sufficient action introduced to relieve the sameness of regulated etiquette and rows of lookers on. The eye rests immediately upon the Nabob, and his brilliant intelligent countenance fixes the impression. Altogether we consider the engraving to be one of the most meritorious ever brought from our Eastern Empire, and well calculated (like Seringapatam, the introduction of Jury to Ceylon, and others of its celebrated precursors) to obtain a large share of popularity at home. The subject, as we have said, is full of interest, and its treatment of the foremost order.

The Nautch, by the same artist, has all the general, though not the peculiar, interest of the foregoing; and may well serve as a companion print. The Maharajah Chunder Lal gives the entertainment to General Fraser, the British Resident at Hyderabad; and here again we see the capital effects of rich and various dress, above a hundred portraits, and the whole grouped with admirable skill. Sikhs, Scindians, Afghans, Arabs, and many others contrast with British soldiers and civilians, and the whole is graced and enlivened by the presence of fair ladies intent on witnessing the graceful movements of the Nautch in a climate where the enjoyments of the dance are denied to themselves.

Major General Cubbon, whole length, by the same, is another proof that English art has a proper field in India; and, at least in the case of the junior F. C. Lewis, is ably cultivated. And we cannot take leave of him with the word "junior" on our pen, without being reminded of the pleasures we have received, and recorded in the *Literary Gazette*, from the performances of his father. We are recalled by these faithful transcripts of society and customs in the East, to the beautiful translations from the great masters which we have owed to the "senior." We cannot forget the copies of Claude and Rembrandt, so accurate and vivid as to rival the originals; nor the solemn grandeur of Danby, the striking force of Harlow, nor the most elegant and touching reminiscences of Lawrence. We see also the initials "C. G." on one of these prints: are we to have a dynasty of Lewis as long as that of France? If so, may it, to the nineteenth generation, be as famous and more fortunate!

Practical Hints on Portrait Painting: Illustrated by Examples, &c. By John Burnet, F.R.S. 4to. Bogue.

WHEN we consider the extent and the very high condition of art, to which portrait painting has been carried in England; and when we see the great examples of former times approached by very few of our living School, we cannot but be pleased to see the practical sense, the skill and science of Mr. Burnet, thus presented to inform the public mind, and guide the general taste, whilst, at the same time, it lays before the rising generation of artists, as well as many who have risen to a certain rank, the true principles on which they may hope to emulate the Vandyke, Velasquez, Rubens, or Reynolds, of glorious repute. The author is a teacher, for whose opinions and precepts we have ever entertained extreme respect. For we have never in him met with the fudge of erudition, or the rant of enthusiasm. He knows what he is about, and how things ought to be done (and he has done and can

do them), and consequently he has no need to veil himself in the rapid technicalities or meaningless rhodomontade which we are so accustomed to receive from the dealers in art criticism. There are rules and there are methods of painting portraits of admirable beauty and effect; exhibiting every quality by which the great can be distinguished from the mediocre—correctness of drawing, tone, colour, chiaro-scuro, handling, perspective, arrangement, harmony and what not. On these, the instructive remarks of Mr. Burnet are clear and pertinent; and his illustrations, in various states of forwardness, leave nothing to be mistaken or misunderstood. The references to the masters quoted, and the judgment upon their various excellences, and the works of those who fall short of them, are of infinite value; but perhaps we should say that the extraordinary usefulness of the volume will be found in its numerous details and absolute lessons on every branch of the subject.

The Folding Drawing Models, designed and executed by B. R. Green and James Fahey. Of the utility of this series of models there cannot be a question, for they supply the pupil with the actual to study from, in preference to mere copies of drawings. The objects here are what the artists call in the round, so that they can be arranged in an endless variety of groups; with this great advantage, that the correct amount of lights and shadows is always preserved with truth.

Pastal Drawing.—There are, or just have been, exhibiting gratuitously, in Baker-street, a number of pictures, principally portraits, by Isadore Magues; and the artist has achieved that which is rarely accomplished, namely, that, independently of their being portraits, they more or less, owing to the skill of treatment, possess great value as pictures. We may instance a very lovely one of Mrs. Michau Davis. To increase the difficulty, the whole effect is produced without the aid of background, and is altogether an extraordinary effort. The material used is called Pastal; and it is something new to see figures of the life size executed in this manner. The group of the Grandchildren of Madame Tussaud is beautifully arranged, and in this style perhaps the largest drawing in the kingdom.

The Central School of Design.—On the 16th, Mr. Labouchere, supported by Lord Granville and Mr. Redgrave (one of the head masters), distributed the prizes among the successful students, after hearing a satisfactory report of the progress of the school read by Mr. Deverell the secretary. The average monthly number of pupils of both sexes in 1848 was 383; which had increased during the last nine months to the close of the year to 423. About £260 of prizes were presented, and the principal recipients were Misses Alice West, Louisa Gann, Charity Palmer, Eliza Mills; Messrs. Johnson, Butler, Griesbach, Portch, Slocumb, J. and J. B. George, &c. The works exhibited fully justified the rewards and encourage the hope of further success in this cultivation of native talent.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Paris, Wednesday.

From an article of M. Sainte-Beuve, one of our most renowned literati, in the *Constitutionnel*, it appears that the public evening readings of the works of distinguished authors, which takes place in different parts of Paris for the benefit of workmen, have the greatest success. Sometimes as many as 300 workmen, all clean and well dressed, and some of them accompanied by their wives and families, attend these readings, which, when necessary, are rendered more interesting by the explanations of the readers. The effect which has been produced on the working classes is stated to be most satisfactory. The workmen who appear

to take most interest in the readings are jewellers, designers, engine-builders, carpenters, and cabinet makers; of printers, it is noticed very few indeed attend, either because they are generally occupied in the evening, or because they have enough reading during the day. One of the readers has taken the trouble to note down the effect produced on his auditory by the different works read, and the result is not uninteresting. Thus the poetry of Casimir Delavigne "gives pleasure;" a notice of Joan d'Arc, from Michelet, "very great effect;" Moliere's "Dépit Amoureux" and the "Précieuses" "very great effect;" Corneille, "great effect;" Racine, "not so great;" Fables of La Fontaine "amuse, but the 'moral' puzzles the workmen;" Chateaubriand's "Martyrs and Atala," "great effect;" Bernardin de Saint-Pierre's "Chamille Indienne" "great pleasure;" Boileau's Epistles and Satires, "little effect;" Paul Louis Courier, "not appreciated;" Beranger's Songs, "less successful than was to have been expected;" Voltaire "gives pleasure." Another reader relates that he caused great emotion by displaying the horrors of civil war as set forth in Madame de la Rochejacquelin's Memoirs—a circumstance the more worthy of note from the fact that probably all his hearers had fought at barricades, and would not be too unwilling, on sufficient occasion, to fight again. The same reader mentions that accounts of the battles of Poitiers, Agincourt, and Cressy caused a very painful sensation on the workmen, and that many of them subsequently addressed a letter to him complaining that he had outraged their sentiments of patriotism; but the next evening he set all right by explaining that there was no disgrace in national misfortunes, and no want of patriotism in examining calmly into them.

Victor Hugo is just now getting a good deal abused in the literary set for having declared the other day before the Committee on Theatres that, in his opinion, the tragedies of Voltaire should be classed "parmi les œuvres les plus informes que l'esprit humain ait jamais produites." And certes the great Victor richly deserves the abuse he gets, for never did any man of literary eminence utter a greater absurdity.

Many of the principal artists of this country now make a rule of putting up their pictures for sale by public auction, instead of, as heretofore, seeking private purchasers, or waiting for private commissions. They find the novel plan to answer better even than had been anticipated—just because they are sure to find purchasers, and, what is even more important, to get their money; and next, because the prices they obtain are generally fair and reasonable. Would not a similar sort of proceeding answer in England? In addition to the sales of living artists, we have those of many private galleries, comprising, some of them, works by eminent painters. The prices obtained have, generally speaking, been very high: a Wouvermans, for instance, has fetched as much as £1000; a Paul Potter, nearly £800.

It is not yet positively known whether Lamar-tine will or will not retire to the East, to cultivate the vast tract of land which the Sultan has conceded to him: the turn which impending events in this country may take will decide: but the probability at this moment is that he will go—leaving in the spring. His most sincere admirers—and they are many—are anxious that he should go, in order not further to compromise himself in the fierce war of politics.

Whilst authors, savans, and artists in France distinguish themselves by knocking down monarchies and setting up republics, or forming provisional governments, or becoming cabinet ministers, or parliamentary orators, or political leaders—witness Lamartine, Arago, Marrast, David, Hugo, and many others,—the booksellers, publishers and printers of *la bonne ville de Paris* also play no mean part in public life. Thus the Secretary-General of the Provisional Govern-

ment and the Executive Committee was a bookseller—the virtual Minister of Foreign Affairs was a bookseller—there were some half-dozen booksellers in the Constituent Assembly—a bookseller was at one time one of the cabinet ministers of General Cavaignac and President Bonaparte, and there were I know not how many other men of books, or type, or paper, in Prefectures, or other public offices of high degree. At this present moment, booksellers, publishers, and printers have no cause to complain of the lack of public distinctions, for, according to the statement of M. Pagnerre, at a recent meeting of their trade association, they have one of their body in the Legislative Assembly, two in the Municipal Council, two in the Central Commission of Public Assistance, seven at the head of the Comptoir National d'Escompte, one in the Conseil des Prud'hommes, one in the Chamber of Commerce, and three who are judges in the Tribunal of Commerce.

I mentioned recently that a number of letters of de Maistre, the great Catholic writer on public education in Russia, were about to be published. The first of them has appeared to-day, and, from the hasty glance I have given it, it seems to me to be only an elaborate and rather dull pleading in favour of the maintenance of ignorance, or rather against the propagation of instruction in Russia. The letters, it appears, are five in number, were written at St. Petersburg in 1810, and were addressed to the Russian Minister of Public Instruction.

Rossini, as was anticipated, finds the Italian Theatre a bad speculation, and he has addressed an earnest appeal to the National Assembly for an subvention. His chances, however, of getting anything are small, inasmuch as the National Treasury is deplorably empty, and as, moreover, his enterprise is mainly beneficial to foreigners.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Belgium.—The fall of snow has been immense, crushing buildings, retarding the mails for several days, causing travellers to perish, and bringing wolves down upon cattle even in their stables. The Moselle and Lahn are entirely frozen over.

The Grand Fête Artistique organised by the artists of Belgium, came off with considerable éclat (though with some drawbacks) on the 5th, at Brussels. The *Herald* has a good description of the theatre and its decorations, and the royal visit to the pictures.

Rauch, of Berlin, is stated to be putting the finishing stroke to the pedestal of his equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, which is to be erected on the open space of the Linden, opposite the Prince of Prussia's palace; and it is hoped the work may be set in its place by the 15th of October next, the birthday of the present King.

The Paris Journals announce the death of Madame Grassini, at Milan, a popular singer at Paris in the time of the Consulate and Empire: she was aunt to the two Grisis. The same journals record the demise of Romagnesi, author of many popular airs and songs.

True Benevolence.—The Prefect of the A. Police in Paris, having appealed to the Professor of Books to contribute to the formation of a library for the use of prisoners, the call has been liberally answered, and the Prefecture filled with presents. M. Perrotin, the publisher, Mlle. Dupuy, a writer on education, and M. Rendu, a counsellor to the University, are mentioned in the *Times* as among the principal donors.

Produce of the French Printing Press in 1849.—There were printed in France in 1849, 8,276 works of all sorts,—less by 170 than the number published in 1848, the year of the revolution. Of this number 7,378 were books in all languages, living and dead; 672 stamps, engravings, and lithographs, and 226 musical works.—*The Times*,

SKETCHES OF SOCIETY.

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION FOR 1851.

THE meeting at the Mansion House yesterday was attended by some five hundred persons, and the dais graced by the presidency of the Lord Mayor, and the attendance of Lord John Russell, Lord R. Grosvenor, Lord Granville, Baron Rothschild, Sir James Duke, and other aldermen and city functionaries, Mr. Jones Loyd, Mr. Cotton, &c., &c. Five or six resolutions, in support of the plan and its promotion by a liberal municipal and national subscription, were proposed in suitable speeches, and carried unanimously. Above £10,000 were announced in the Hall, including Her Majesty's £1,000, and Prince Albert's £500. Nearly all the Cabinet Ministers gave £100 each, and there were eight or nine donations of £500. It was mentioned that Sheriff Nicol would offer a prize of £500 for the best article in broad cloth. Lord John Russell moved one of the resolutions, and upon the whole the meeting went off very satisfactorily, and is calculated to give a great and (we trust) sufficient impulse to the undertaking. The Royal Commission will nevertheless have plenty to do in bringing it to the hoped-for consummation.

DR. HOOKER AND DR. CAMPBELL.

OUR readers, who cannot have forgotten Dr. Hooker's interesting letter from the Himalaya great Table Land of Thibet (dated Tunga, N.E. Sikkim, July 25th—see *L. G.* of October 13, No. 1708) giving an account of the progress of his Botanical researches, in that every way difficult region, will be startled with the news just received, that our enterprising countryman and his companion, Dr. Campbell, have been seized and detained prisoners by the Rajah of Sikkim, described as a "petty potentate in the Bengal Presidency." The names of places in these letters differ from those in our correspondence, which related to the peremptory journey to Tunga, in spite of the equivocations and remonstrances of the guide Singtam Soubah, and mentioned Dr. Hooker's intention to return to Darjeeling in September or October. This design, however, appears to have been forcibly prevented; and the *Calcutta Star* states that the travellers, after remaining four days in Thibet (*Cheen*), on their return went to Tumloong, the Rajah's winter residence in Sikkim. He would not, and did not, receive either of them; when they determined to go to Chola, a lofty mountain two marches off, although they were warned not to cross the frontier. They reached Chola, and finding Chumbee, the Rajah's summer residence in Thibet, to be only one march further, they determined to see it, well knowing it is across the boundary and in Thibet. They passed the fatal boundary, and were seized upon by a guard of 60 soldiers and carried to Choombee or Chumbee, prisoners, whence they were ordered to be taken to the Sikkim Rajah at Tumloong. Some negotiations ensued, November 11, 18; and it is stated that Dr. Campbell was barbarously used by the Rajah and Dewan, who entertained bitter hostility against him. The Thibetans, it is added, hold the Sikkim Rajah responsible, so that, between them and the demands of our Government, he must be in a perplexing dilemma.

E. I. C.'s forces were assembling on the frontier; and latest news from Darjeeling, dated December 1, was to the effect that "Dr Campbell was still in confinement, but was allowed to write to his wife; "but," adds the writer,—

"There is no knowing how all this may end, and we still feel rather nervous, as we do not know what the Rajah's intention may be."

We entertain no apprehensions of the result, for there can be no doubt that the whole power of British India would immediately be put forth to rescue our brave scientific countryman and his official friend from the hands of their insolent oppressors.

BIOGRAPHY.

CHARLES ROBERT FORRESTER,

THE brother of Alfred Crowquill has been taken from us prematurely. After suffering long from a painful affection of the heart, he died on the 15th inst. at his residence in Beaumont-square, in the 48th year of his age. He practised, as his father and grandfather did, in the city as a Notary; but was (like James and Horace Smith) devoted to literary pursuits, and the author of numerous popular productions. Among these, "Castle Baynard" was, we believe, the first, and appeared some twenty-five years ago. This was followed by a romance entitled "Sir Roland." He also contributed for many years to *Bentley's Miscellany*, *Colburn's Monthly*, the *Comic Offering*, and other periodicals; and has left many unpublished MSS., which, we hope, may ere long see the light of day.

His ready wit and genius, the admiration of his friends and acquaintances, cannot be described more appropriately than by the following quotation from our Immortal Bard:—

"A merrier man,
Within the limit of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withheld.
His eye begets occasion for his wit;
For every object that the one doth catch
The other turns to a mirth-moving jest;
While his fair tongue (conceit's expiator)
Delivers in such apt and gracious words,
That aged ears play truant at his tales,
And younger hearings are quite ravished,
So sweet and voluble is his discourse."

William Westall, Esq., A.R.A., so long and favourably known in our native school, died on the 22nd, at his residence in St. John's-wood.

ROBERT SHEDDEN, ESQ.

DEAR SIR,—In the interesting particulars of the Plover's Boat Expedition, accompanied by the yacht "Nancy Dawson," published in the *Lit. Gazette*, you omitted to mention the name of the owner of the yacht, Mr. Robert Shedden. As his death at Mazatlan was most likely caused by the fatigue attending the arduous voyage from Icy Cape to the Mackenzie and back, I am sure you will think with me, that his name is deserving of some notice. Mr. Shedden was the nephew of Gen. Sir Thomas Macdougall Brisbane, so well known in scientific circles, from whom he early imbibed a desire for accurate observation and for the advancement of science. He entered the Royal Navy, and served throughout the Chinese war, in which he was severely wounded. He was mate of the "Conway" when Captain Bethune, in that frigate, surveyed the Yant-zekiang, as high as Nankin. Blessed with a splendid fortune, he built in 1847 the yacht "Nancy Dawson"—a perfect model, both in design and construction. In this yacht he projected a voyage round the world; and, stimulated by the success of Sir James Brooke in Celebes and Borneo, it was his intention to visit Japan, which, had he lived to accomplish, would have opened out to science and commerce a rich field for future exertion and enterprise. He reached Bombay in 1848, where his adventurous voyage attracted much attention. In the Pacific he joined with alacrity in the noble search through Behring Straits, and along the shore of the Arctic coast of America, the result of which you have already given. His praiseworthy example requires at the hand of a friend a small tribute for the sacrifice he has made.

Yours, truly,

JOHN SHILLINGLAW.

MUSIC.

Théâtre Français, St. James's.—It is a subject of great wonder to us that amongst the numberless composers whose music has been translated from the French stage to ours, Herold should have met with such disregard, and seen his works capriciously mutilated and uncourtously dis-

owned, for he is one of the modern composers most free from insipidity and bad taste, and we are inclined to consider his premature death as the greatest loss the lyrical drama has sustained of late years in France. Our readers can form an opinion on the point, for *Zampa*, just produced at the St. James's Theatre, may be considered as the index of his genius—more so even than the *Pré aux Cleres*. They may occasionally recognise the style of Auber; but Herold never descends to copyism; the work is brilliantly scored without vulgarity, sentimental without triviality, and some of the concerted pieces rise to the highest standard of music. *Zampa* is, we believe, the only genuine French opera taken up by her Majesty's Theatre. Some years ago, before Fornasari declined in popularity, that gifted singer undertook the principal part, and many of our readers remember how well his powerful and rich voice interpreted the licentiousness of the reckless Pirate. M. Chollet, the *Zampa* of the St. James's Theatre, is identified with the character which he "created," as the phrase goes, in Paris, in 1831, and in which he contributed largely to the prodigious success of the opera. Throughout this long and exceedingly laborious part great tact and careful management are wholly called into play—now more than ever—for not only is the music better suited to a barytone than tenor, but the voice of M. Chollet, severely tested during many years, is somewhat impaired, has frequently to meet the exigencies of the score by falsetto notes. This is the penalty which many great singers, like Moriani and Duprez, have undergone for an overtaxed organ. All this, however, is done by M. Chollet with such untiring care and matured judgment, that the most captious, if they perceive, cannot censure the clever contrivance.

As a dramatic conception, *Zampa* is a younger brother of *Don Giovanni*, only of weaker stuff—a nobleman, a great "blackguard," ever prosecuting endless villainies, turned pirate, "proposes" to the marble image of a girl he had seduced, and actually marries per force the bride of another man. The said statue, however, with more sense than its original, bags the gay Lothario, who is

"Sent to the Devil somewhat ere his time."
Leporello himself appears in the person of a superstitious Daniel, and completes the resemblance.

The dialogue, however, is witty, and the music would redeem any libretto; winning melodies that sparkle at every step leave no room for cavil. The overture, light and capricious, is generally well known, but few here are acquainted with the opera, save unwittingly; and many persons who go to St. James's will be astonished to recognize stray bits of sweet music, often and most ungratefully enjoyed without acknowledgment to poor Herold.

The first *Complainte*,
"D'une haute naissance,"
written with touching simplicity, and the romance, "A ce bonheur suprême," gave Mlle. Charton (*Camille*) the only two opportunities of distinguishing herself, the rest of the music being almost exclusively monopolised by the *Pirate*. At the close of the first act,

"Que la vague écumante,"
a drinking song with a chorus and burden, belongs to the highest order of musical composition, and was perfectly well sung and acted, as well as a capital trio which preceded, in which the arrival of *Zampa* is announced.

At the outset of the second act occurs a most trying *cavatine*,

"Il faut souscrire a mes lois,"
a bravura song, where the *Pirate* boasts of his licentiousness. M. Chollet gave this admirably; and immediately after the sweet and popular *Barcarolle*,

"Douce Jouvencelle,"
one of the most simple and prettiest melodies the

French have. These, with a trio between Mlle. Guichard (*Rita*), M. Chateauford (*Dandolo*), and M. Soyer, the superstitious quartermaster, and excellently sung by them, are the most remarkable portions of the opera, the third act having but one moreau worthy of notice,

"Camille revenges a noug."

requiring great judgment to be well given, as the *motif* recurs frequently, and should be well seconded by passionate acting, and even by embellishment. This fell also to the lot of M. Chollet, who, throughout the difficult performance, showed a most artistic feeling, which was warmly appreciated by the audience.

VARIETIES.

Society of Arts.—The proposed exhibition of Medieval Arts, in March, is sought to be supported by personal subscription. This is a new feature in the system of the society; and those who now seem to be doing for it. The council of the Society of Antiquaries, we understand, has refused to concur in the proposed Exhibition of ancient Art by the Society of Arts, and rather *pook* pushed the application of Messrs. Cole & Co. for its co-operation.

Geological Prizes.—The Council of the Geological Society of Dublin, has resolved that three prizes be offered by the society, each of the value of five pounds in books, to be awarded for the three most valuable papers in the order of merit, that shall be communicated and read to the society prior to the 31st of December, 1850, on Theoretical or Descriptive Geology, or the application thereto of any of the kindred Sciences.

Roman Coins.—Two fine golden solidi of Theodosius the Great, and his son Arcadius, were lately found at Lanyon Quarry, near Penzance; the first minted at Constantinople, and the last, instead of the name of a mint, having the letters OC in the place, which is held to signify that the coin is of the purest gold. The dates belong to the latter part of the fourth, and beginning of the fifth centuries, when these Cæsars reigned.

The Britannia Bridge.—The second great tube has been raised to its 100-feet elevation, and forms by its junction with the other tubes a continuous rigid wrought iron highway 1,840 feet long, and between 5,000 and 6,000 tons in weight. The workmen are now engaged day and night in completing the junctions and adjustments. Every exertion is being made to have the line complete by the end of February for the first trial trains to go through.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Anthon's (C.) System of Ancient and Medieval Geography, 8vo, boards, 14s.
 Architect and Builder's Gazette, vol. 1, 4to, cloth, 17s.
 Balfour's (Mrs. C. L.) Whisper to Newly-Married Pairs, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Bryant's (W. C.) Poems, 18mo, 2s. 6d.
 Caird's (J.) West of Ireland, a Field for Investment, 8vo, 6s.
 Campbell's Philosophy of Rhetoric, new edition, 8vo, 5s. 6d.
 City of God, a Vision, &c., post 8vo, cloth, 8s. 6d.
 Classical Museum, vol. 7, 8vo, cloth, 14s. 6d.; "7 vols 8vo, cloth," 4l. 17s. 6d.
 Clatterbuck's (Dr. J. B.) Port Phillip in 1849, 12mo, 3s.
 Cobwebbs, 18mo, new edition, 3s.
 Dave's Suggestive Hints, 4th edition, 12mo, cloth, 2s.
 De Lurg's Elementary Instruction in Illumination, 12mo, 6s.
 Diary of an Officer in Campaign of Lombardy, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Dod's Peerage for 1850, 12mo., cloth, 10s. 6d.
 Douglas's (R.) Adventures of a Medical Student, 3rd edition, post 8vo, 10s. 6d.
 Green's Biblical Dictionary, new ed., 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Hawthorn's (N.) Twice told Tales, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 History of England during Peace, vol. 2, royal 8vo, 30s.
 History of Europe, edited by Sedgwick, 12mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Hooker's Physicians and Patients, post 8vo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
 Jackson (J.) on Christian Character, 2nd edition, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
 Kain's (G. J.) System of Solicitor's Accounts, with Plans and Explanations of the several Books, 2nd edition, post broadside, 3s.
 Kain's (G. J.) System of Rental Accounts, with Plans and Explanations of the several Books, 2nd edition, post broadside, 3s.
 Kitto's (J.) Bible History, 8vo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Tabernacle, new edition, 4to, 3s. 6d.

- Latham's Grammar of English Language, use of Schools, 12mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Letters to a Niece, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 London Catalogue of Periodicals, 8vo, sewed, 1s.
 Longfellow's Poems, 18mo, 2s.
 ——— Seaside and Fireside, 12mo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
 More Verse and Prose, by Corn-law Rhymers, vol. 1, 5s.
 Niebuhr's Lectures on History of Rome, by Dr. Schmitz, 3 vols, 8vo, 1l. 4s.
 Palmer's Land of Promise, 12mo, cloth, 4s.
 Petral, a Tale of the Sea, 3 vols, 1l. 11s. 6d.
 Phillips's (J., Esq.) Letters on Special Pleading, 2nd edition, 12mo, 3s. 6d.
 Prostitution; or, Vicar's Daughter, 3rd edition, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Read's (H.) The Hand of God in History, 12mo, 5s.
 Ripley's (R. S.) War with Mexico, 2 vols, 8vo, 24s.
 Sandham's (Miss) Schoolfellows, new edition, 2s. 6d.
 Statham's (Rev. J.) Cottage's Key to Scripture, 32mo, cloth, 1s. 6d.
 Translation of Hermann and Dorothea of Goethe, by Winter, 3s.
 Tyne (R.) Favourite Field Flowers, 2nd series, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
 Vogel's Illustrated Physical Atlas, royal 8vo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
 Watson's Sermon, 18mo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
 Weir's (Rev. W.) The Highway of Holiness, 12mo, cl., 2s. 6d.
 White Jacket; or, World on Board a Man-of-War, by Melville, 2 vols, post 8vo, cloth, 21s.
 Wilmot's Dicty, of Signals, 18m o, cloth, 8s. 6d.

DENT'S TABLE FOR THE EQUATION OF TIME.

[This table shows the time which a clock or watch should indicate when the sun is on the meridian.]

1850	h. m. s.	1850	h. m. s.
Jan. 26 . . .	12 12 52.1	Jan. 30 . . .	12 13 36.4
27 . . .	13 4.4	31 . . .	13 45.5
28 . . .	13 15.6	Feb. 1 . . .	13 53.7
29 . . .	13 26.9		

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*In consequence of the space we have this week devoted to the important and interesting particulars relating to the Nineteenth Antiquities, we are compelled to postpone the continuations of the reviews of "Urquhart's Pillars of Hercules" and "Tiecknor's Spanish Literature," and also to defer reports of the Geographical and several other Societies.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from Mr. Carmichael, of Edinburgh, accusing us of attempting, "heedlessly and inadvertently," to frighten our readers, by stating that chloroform in labour produces insanity. These are hard terms, and almost warrant a departure from our accustomed courtesy. Mr. C. it appears, is a strenuous advocate of the exhibition of Anæsthetics. He asserts that from 80,000 to 100,000 persons have been chloroformed in Edinburgh, without a single accident attributable to its influence. We repeat, that four cases of insanity from chloroform have been communicated to the Westminster Medical Society by Dr. Webster, and that a Foreign Journal reported the Berlin cases noticed in a recent *Gazette*. But the rumoured fatal instance near London in our notice seems to have especially called forth the remonstrance of Mr. Carmichael, and he asks us, as a favour, to give him the opportunity of seeking out whether the rumour be or be not true. No clue to the case would enable him to prove to us that our published statement was quite "unwarranted, and beneath the character for high-minded integrity which the *Literary Gazette* possesses." The rumour is, unhappily, too true. We know the alluring circumstances of the case, but, unauthorised, we do not feel justified in disclosing names.

To the Editor of the *Literary Gazette*.

Paris, 23rd Jan. 1850.

SIR,—I am indebted to your kindness for no less than four notices in my "review of the French Revolution." I now solicit the publication of this letter in defence, not so much of the work above-mentioned, as of myself.

The *Naval and Military Gazette* of the 29th December has thought proper to publish a long extract from the *Suffolk Chronicle*, full of the most insane ravings, the most inconceivable absurdities, disgusting allusions, and ridiculous pretensions. This, Sir, is attributed to me, and written, as the editor is kind enough to remark in his leading article, from "a recent work on the French Revolution."

You, Sir, who had the perseverance to wade through my work, and the kindness to express yourself satisfied with it, can vouch that not one word of this ranting insanity is to be found in my pages; and you must be well aware that such ridiculous absurdity would not have escaped the censure of the London press had it existed.

The remarks of the *Naval and Military Gazette* are calculated to do me the greatest injury, and my publishers the greatest wrong. Who would buy a work of which the extract forms a part? or who would countenance an author guilty of such blasphemy? But beyond this is another injury, and that professional. The navy and army, amongst whom the *Naval and Military Gazette* has its circulation, look with some degree of certitude that the information is correct when on officer is attacked. The *Gazette* is considered as naval and military history, and, feeling this, the editor remarks, "We now insert it (the extract from the *Suffolk Chronicle*) that the Service may judge whether we are unjust or too severe in describing it as rabid nonsense."

The editor had on the 15th December commenced his first attack on me; he never troubled himself to consult the work, which was lying on his table, to ascertain the truth of his unjust and insidious assertions, but, with the most inexcusable reliance on an obscure country paper, publishes the extracts, and has the greater impudence of making his editorial comments upon it.

How very little reliance the army and navy can place in the remarks of this journal may now be ascertained. It is evident that if the historical facts are no more investigated than the editorial criticisms, there can be as little reliance on the one, as justice in the other. The editor shows, in every word, his own negligence and culpability.—"We hesitated (to say) to insert the letter or the paragraph in our columns, under the belief that it was hardly credible any British officer of a Christian country could write such loathsome trash." Strong terms these sir, and yet, disbelieving, by his own showing, he never takes the trouble of investigating his supposed facts; he accuses an officer of doing that which no officer of a Christian country should do, and publishes to the world that officer's infamy. To you, therefore, I send this refutation of the malicious, false, and disreputable attack, and I have only to congratulate myself, since the world is always more prone to circulate malice than investigate truth, that the publication occurred in a journal the limited circulation of which has prevented a more extensive flow of the venom and the falsehood.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. CHAMBER.

We will endeavour to answer EGOMET in our next.

We are sorry to be obliged to disappoint X. Y. Z.'s honest ambition.

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